









UPDATE

Leader Dog

LEADING THE WAY TO GREATER INDEPENDENCE

SUMMER 2003



April 26, 2002 . . .



In one short year, thanks to the efforts of our supporters, staff, numerous contractors and a little nod to Mother Nature, we are preparing for the transfer of the kitchen in the summer months and look to hold our first class in the Polk Residence and Training Center in August of 2003. Much appreciation is had for all those who have so diligently and tirelessly given to this project. 🐾

. . . April 26, 2003



It's Almost Ready

The Polk Residence and Training Center will soon be a reality. An idea conceived eight years ago is scheduled to house its first class August 3.

In 1995, when we had the opportunity to visit Guide Dogs for the Blind Association in Great Britain, we witnessed training programs and methods that in themselves have changed dramatically. Driven by world events, the needs of those being trained and new methods and technologies, members of the Leader Dog staff, students and graduates and our architects and contractors have found themselves in a truly dynamic situation.

One of the lessons we have learned is the absolute need to be flexible and adaptable. We have faced changing requirements, changes in city construction

codes, layout changes necessitated by function and training needs. In each case, we have evaluated and reevaluated requirements and capabilities to insure that we were making the best decision.

We had spent many months, stretching into several years, assessing and reassessing sketches, drawings and finally, plans. At last count, we probably looked at more than ten separate sets of initial plans – each caused by “one more thing” that would provide the optimum training environment.

As we approach our first class in the Polk Residence and Training Center, we know that we still have much to learn. The first few classes will be an experience in changing old procedures, habits, and adjusting those we have already

anticipated. Again, flexibility and adaptability will be the key.

In the months ahead, we will incorporate the AMP (Accelerated Mobility Program) on a more regular and routine basis. Shortly thereafter, we will see other activities joining the existing programs. We have begun discussions with other agencies to collaborate with Leader Dog to expand the types of services we can offer to our students.

Today, Leader Dogs for the Blind stands on the edge of dramatic new approaches to providing a complete range of services to the blind and visually impaired. We have already witnessed success with the first four AMP classes. More than



Bill Hansen, President

half of the attendees have successfully continued on to complete training with a Leader Dog.

Service organizations and businesses of the future must evolve and continue to focus on meeting the needs of those who will use these services. We may not be able to predict the results in pursuing this approach. However, we can most certainly predict the results if we fail to do so. 🐾



Staff News: Many congratulations!

Congratulations are in order for Wendy Mata and Linda Fisher. Through diligent work and persistence, they have completed their apprenticeships here at Leader Dogs for the Blind. After three years of study, tests and, most important, hands on experience, the two were presented their certificates by President Bill Hansen and Director of Training Judy Campbell.

What's developing in Development?



Yes!

I want to help Leader Dogs for the Blind.
I understand that my gift will provide opportunities to visually impaired people.

its!

Training
l a bit
, with
ledged
goal is
a rich
ned our
Lions
nd the
and
onding

The Gala

The Gala is coming up in September, and is being held at a new venue; Ford Conference Center in Dearborn. We are "Celebrating Success" and the completion of the Polk Residence and Training Center to the sounds of the band Three Dog Night, which we thought was only fitting. It should be a great celebration!

Buy a Brick

Bricks-bricks-bricks. What can we say? Your support of our Buy-a-Brick program continues to be very strong, with those monies earmarked for the capital project as well. We cannot tell you how many bricks we've sold, since we also have a raffle going on to "guess" the amount sold by December 25, 2003.

Lead In

In November the 11th Annual Lead In The Holidays event will continue on the success of past years, with the dine-around and live and silent auctions benefiting our program efforts. "Lead-In," as we call it, is a testimony to all of our wonderful volunteers


who work very hard each year to put on a fantastic event.

New Initiative

"Spend a Year with Leader Dog" will be our first effort at an annual appeal designed to bring in new supporters to invest in our organization as many of you have already done, and continue to do. From our major donors to our very valuable volunteers, we thank each of you for your continued efforts on our behalf.

Support from Our Friends

In addition to this, we are fortunate to have many of you doing fundraisers on our behalf throughout the year. Every penny you raise helps to change people's lives. We thank you for your efforts, great and small. Each time you do a fundraiser or attend an event on our behalf, you help us to spread the message about the work that we do and the people we serve.

Thank you. 

...
t it in
an
ls still
before
ool
tand
e of
t (about
s
nnual
itational
the time
of now,
0 people
money
erman
y chair
nsored
y,
Herman
Detroit
ess
has
riend to

Leader Dog.

It's Almost Ready

The Polk Residence and Training Center will soon be a reality. An idea conceived eight years ago is scheduled to house its first class August 3.

In 1995, when we had the opportunity to visit Guide Dogs for the Blind Association in Great Britain, we witnessed training programs and methods that in themselves have changed dramatically. Driven by world events, the needs of those being trained and new methods and technologies, members of the Leader Dog staff, students and graduates and our architects and contractors have found themselves in a truly dynamic situation.

One of the lessons we have learned is the absolute need to be flexible and adaptable. We have faced changing requirements, changes in city construction

codes, layout changes necessitated by function and training needs. In each case, we have evaluated and reevaluated requirements and capabilities to insure that we were making the best decision.

We had spent many months, stretching into several years, assessing and reassessing sketches, drawings and finally, plans. At last count, we probably looked at more than ten separate sets of initial plans – each caused by “one more thing” that would provide the optimum training environment.

As we approach our first class in the Polk Residence and Training Center, we know that we still have much to learn. The first few classes will be an experience in changing old procedures, habits, and adjusting those we have already

anticipated. Again, flexibility and adaptability the key.

In the months ahead, we will incorporate AMP (Assistive Mobility Program) on a more and more routine basis. Shortly after we will have activities the existing program begun and with other collaborators. Dog to be of service to our students.

Today, at the edge of the approach a complete services visually have already AMP cla

GIVING LEVELS

- ☐ **Donald P. Schurr Circle of Friends • \$500 to \$999**
Donors at this level receive a personalized calligraphy certificate suitable for framing, a gold membership card and all the benefits listed on the Donor Giving Club sheet.
- ☐ **President's Circle • Emerald Member • \$1,000 to \$4,999**
Donors at this level receive a personalized paperweight, a gold membership card and all the benefits listed on the Donor Giving Club sheet.
- ☐ **Chairman's Circle • Diamond Member • \$5,000 and above**
Donors at this level receive a personalized walnut memo holder, a gold membership card and all the benefits listed on the Donor Giving Club sheet.
- ☐ **\$1 to \$49**
Receipt (within 48 hours of receiving gift) with enclosed contribution envelope.
- ☐ **Charles A. Nutting Circle of Friends \$50 to \$99**
Donors at this level receive a white membership card and all the benefits listed on the Donor Giving Club sheet.
- ☐ **S. A. Dodge Circle of Friends • \$100 to \$499**
Donors at this level receive a silver membership card and all the benefits listed on the Donor Giving Club sheet.



STAFF

Cor. and app. Blin impo.

presented their certificates by Hansen and Director of Training Judy Campbell.

The Giving Circles are to demonstrate a personal commitment to the continued operations of Leader Dog, rather than gifts from service organizations or corporations. Contributions toward the Leader Dog Operating Fund help support a variety of projects from student travel, room and board, the veterinary program, operational expenses (overhead) to the training of Leader Dogs. Donations at the various levels are entitled to the appropriate benefits listed in the Giving Circles Membership Benefits page.

What's developing in Development?

Just about everything, from soup to nuts!



*Phil Ogle,
Development Director*

Bill Hansen stated it very well last issue when he wrote, "... challenges require that we become increasingly innovative and adaptable..." I don't know of a single nonprofit today that isn't facing challenges when it comes to bringing in new donors and cash in to help pay the bills. We're no different. We still must do the "tried and true" events and appeals that have traditionally supported our programs, but we also have opened the door to new ideas and ways to raise much-needed funds. In this column, we'll update you briefly on what we have been doing, and what we continue to do to "think outside the box."

Construction

Polk Residence & Training Center – we're still a bit short on this front, with over \$8,100,000 pledged or collected. Our goal is \$9.5 million. Got a rich uncle? We broadened our appeal to include Lions Districts from around the U. S. and Canada, and the Lions are responding well.

Partners with Schools

Kids N' Coins – we updated you about it in the last issue, with an even dozen schools still doing fundraisers before the end of this school year in June. We stand a very good chance of sponsoring a team (about \$28,000) from this effort. Our First Annual Celebrity Golf Invitational will be history by the time you read this. As of now, we have about 100 people teeing off to raise money for Leader Dog. Herman Moore is honorary chair for the event, sponsored by a local company, Wright & Filippis. Herman Moore is a former Detroit Lion turned business entrepreneur who has become a good friend to Leader Dog.

The Gala

The Gala is coming up in September, and is being held at a new venue; Ford Conference Center in Dearborn. We are "Celebrating Success" and the completion of the Polk Residence and Training Center to the sounds of the band Three Dog Night, which we thought was only fitting. It should be a great celebration!

Buy a Brick

Bricks-bricks-bricks. What can we say? Your support of our Buy-a-Brick program continues to be very strong, with those monies earmarked for the capital project as well. We cannot tell you how many bricks we've sold, since we also have a raffle going on to "guess" the amount sold by December 25, 2003.

Lead In

In November the 11th Annual Lead In The Holidays event will continue on the success of past years, with the dine-around and live and silent auctions benefiting our program efforts. "Lead-In," as we call it, is a testimony to all of our wonderful volunteers


who work very hard each year to put on a fantastic event.

New Initiative

"Spend a Year with Leader Dog" will be our first effort at an annual appeal designed to bring in new supporters to invest in our organization as many of you have already done, and continue to do. From our major donors to our very valuable volunteers, we thank each of you for your continued efforts on our behalf.

Support from Our Friends

In addition to this, we are fortunate to have many of you doing fundraisers on our behalf throughout the year. Every penny you raise helps to change people's lives. We thank you for your efforts, great and small. Each time you do a fundraiser or attend an event on our behalf, you help us to spread the message about the work that we do and the people we serve.

Thank you. 

Crosswalk

Rod Haneline, Director of Admissions & Graduate Services

I usually start each column with a comment on the weather, as I spend a great deal of time in it. Fortunately, it not always Michigan weather. As part of our University outreach program, I recently took a journey to Florida to talk to the O&M students at Florida State. Thinking I was in for great weather and sunshine, I took my shorts and sun block. In hindsight, a coat and umbrella was needed. The students at Florida State were clad in down jackets as they felt the ravages of winter had arrived with me. Sometimes, you just can't win.

Spring has finally arrived and we continue to

make improvements in all areas of the O&M curriculum. We have had the O&M programs from both Mohawk College and Northern Illinois on the Leader Dog campus this spring. In addition to Florida State, I had the opportunity to speak to students at Stephan F. Austin University in Texas.

The new residence facility continues to take shape. We have gone to great lengths to make this a facility that will be as easy to travel and get around for people who are totally blind as well as low vision. Many of the people who are educated at Leader Dog have some vision remaining. Consequently,

we have gone to great lengths to make color contrast and lighting a priority in all aspects of the building. The floors have been designed with color contrast at the base of the wall to assist in orientation within the halls. The walls have color contrasting tiles and door frames to help identify doorways and intersecting hallways. By the way, there was recently a rumor in a chat room that the "hall is a mile and a half long". Not so. The facility is larger than the old residence because each student has his or her own room, but we have not hit the mile mark. There is even a color contrast in the bathrooms, an area often

overlooked in low vision architecture. Think about going into a white room in low light with bubble wrap covering your eyes (this can simulate low vision)... now try and locate white fixtures within that room. Color contrasting tiles on the floors and around the tub make this a very friendly low vision environment. As we move into the future, we hope to make low vision services a part of the program. This necessitates us to allow for these provisions now and create the best environment possible.

Until next time be aware and take care. 🐾



Happy Mother's Day!

Appropriately enough, Leader Dog Mom Tilly welcomed her newest litter of pups on Mother's Day. Tilly and family are doing well after an all day labor and all evening delivery. A C- section was performed to deliver the majority of the litter. An ultrasound examination confirmed the fetal heart rate of the pups showed stress. The decision was made to deliver through C section to ensure the safest outcome for mom and babies. Leader Dog Dad, Sailor, was unable to attend the birth of his latest contribution to the Leader Dog program. However, we hear that he is very proud of the brood he helped produce. Although tired, Tilly, too, is happy to welcome her eleven new Labrador retriever children to the world.

Tilly wasn't alone in becoming a new mom on May 11. Maggie, also, welcomed seven new babies that day. The beautiful litter of labs are doing well. Their Dad, Rovair, also missed their birth but is anxious to see them soon – perhaps at puppy class.

Leader Dogs

Retired

"Honey" – Teresa Bonnecarrere
"Gussy" – Evelyn Finfrock
"Midnight" – Vernessa Hardy
"Nala" – Libby Walton
"Barney" – James Miller
"Diamond" – Susan Stutz-Freeze
"Buddy" – Charles Lynch
"Cody" – William Chadd
"Trapper" – Carl Durgan
"Hunter" – Roger James
"Molly" – James Ryan
"Captain" – Susan Kamrass
"Quinn" – Becky Nash
"Reebok" – Bill Bogard
"Buddy" – Paula Crebbin
"Charm" – Mike Strait
"Mister" – George Mayes
"Corey" – Evelyn Meyer
"Tanner" – Steve Beebe
"Oliver" – Dan Jenkins
"Buddy" – George Carmichael
"Dakota" – Amy Coyle
"Mark" – Ildefonso Munoz
"Shadow" – Robert Taylor
"Peach" – Cathy Williams
"Briez" – Gail Bowen
"Cody" – Mike Royal
"Monty" – Richard Brauer
"Rafael" – Revvy Brooks
"Champ" – Chris Cortez
"Aspen" – Jennie Lewis

Deceased

"Mills" – Linda Thuesen
"Ramsey" – Charles Corrello
"Chrystee" – Deborah McCahan
"Miller" – Robert Pirt
"Patsy" – Lucille Uttermohlen
"Stella" – Minnie Erickson

Over There

by Cathy Anne Murtha

As my dog guide and I stood in line at the checkout of the River City Market, I asked the cashier what I considered a simple question. "Where are the napkins please?" Her response was hurried but sincere, "Over There".

Emerging from the light rail for the first time, I managed to catch the attention of a passer-by, "please sir, can you tell me where I might catch bus 63?" A kind voice offered a pleasant response before disappearing into the afternoon rush, "you can catch it Over There."

So many things reside "Over There", napkins, bus stops, pencils, pens, clothing racks, department stores and even my shoes! A never ending supply of important and indispensable items and locales all reside in this place which is shrouded in mystery and intrigue.

I stand in perplexed silence after learning that something is "Over There". It is a place I have never been and have no hope of finding on my own. My dog guide is quite skilled in finding chairs, stairs, elevators, escalators, helping me cross streets and can even find me the Diet Pepsi display at Food Town, however, when I tell her to find "Over There", her

little bottom hits the floor and a small whimper tells me that she is as confused as I. We will not be going "Over There" today. "Over There" has caused me a bit of vexation, a lot of confusion and on occasion, made my heart race.

I have discovered that "Over There" can be a dangerous place. One day, while crossing a street, I heard a driver's irritated voice shout out a warning of a truck bearing down on me from "Over There". "Shadow" artfully dodged the oncoming vehicle and pulled me to the safety of the curb. Our hearts were both racing as we took a few moments to compose ourselves. Close encounters with "Over There" can be a frightening experience.

Although many blind people have wondered as to the exact location of "Over There", few have dared to venture forth in an actual exploration of that mysterious place.

One day, while standing in line at the supermarket, I asked the clerk where I might find the aspirin. "With a cheery smile her in voice, she informed me that the aspirin was located "Over There". With a weary sigh, I decided that I would take the extra step that would unravel the

mystery which had vexed my compatriots since the beginning of time.

Taking a deep breath and attempting to look nonchalant, I smiled at the clerk, "Where, I asked, is Over There?" I imagined the girl's shocked expression. I felt her sharing condescending and concerned looks with her fellows in the store. The silence grew palpable as they mulled the possibility of allowing a blind person access to the forbidden land. She had no choice; she would have to tell me how to find "Over There"! I had won! Exhilaration swept through me as I waited in breathless anticipation. A victorious smile crept to my lips. My hand tightened on the handle of "Shadow's" harness. We would soon be going "Over There"! The clerk's voice reeked with resignation as the decision was made. "That Way," she said.

Submitted by Matt and Ron Kolesar 🐾





Class No. 03-08 – Team 3

Team Supervisor Dayton Johnson, Linda Davis with Aires, Ron Swarthout with Zak, Roger James with Duke, Randall Aman with Sady



Class No. 03-08 – Team 3

Instructor Tom Hill, Grecia Fonseca with Angel, Marcela Vega with Nicki, William Zapeta Osorio with Jordan, Elizabeth Rojas Corte, Rebeca Martinez Baranda with Tali, Jorge Garcia Hernandez with Tyler, Interpreter Katuska Olivares



Class No. 03-08 – Team 3

Instructor Carrie Pryce, Carl Durgan with Abby, William Chadd with Riley, Tammy Smith with Hermes, James Ryan with Carly, Eila Virtanen with Kipper



Class No. 03-08 – Team 3

Linda Overmoyer with Royce, Donna Fogle with Murphi, Michael Erwin with Max, Jennie Lewis with Delilah, Instructor Linda Fisher



Class No. 03-09 – Team 4

Team Supervisor Debbie Komondy, Charles Adams with Murray, Coby Livingstone with Betsy, Gail Bowen with Heidi, Michael Leitch with Carson, Richard Brauer with Cody, Apprentice Instructor Jessica Peardon



Class No. 03-09 – Team 4

Instructor Randy Horn, Margarita Pinas with Queen, Gonzalo Garcia with Streeter, Ricardo Machuca with Hercules, Carlos Belda with Nyka, Juan Pastor with Tres, Antonio Villalba with Sandy, Interpreter Ellinor Granero



Class No. 03-09 – Team 4

Apprentice Instructor Sharon Haslam, Grace McMichael with Nydia, Susan Falender with Magic, Thomas Gibson with Dakota, Leodus Moore with Abbott, Florence Brogdon-Fresh with Blossom, Michael Royal with Servus



Class No. 03-09 – Team 6

Apprentice Instructor Michelle Tocco, Stephanie McQuiggen, Jose Amaya with Ace, Team Supervisor Keith McGregor



Class No. 03-10 – Team 5

Supervisor Art Fleming, Josette Kernaghan with Dee, Cathy Williams with Potus, Darlene Neff with Max, Stephanie Love with Tessa, Robin Stemple with Gidget, Apprentice Instructor Deanne Miller



Class No. 03-10 – Team 5

Instructor Michael Stasiuk, Ildefonso Munoz Alvarez with Pete, Jose Luis Jimenez with Willow, Carmen Aguado Bonet with Rachel, Victor Barros Moron with Harley, Vicente Campos Tena with Eashta, Rafael Perez Ramos with Freedom, Interpreter Barbara Le Bret



Class No. 03-10 – Team 5

Apprentice Instructor Tracy Schumann, Lucille Uttermohlen with Tucker Joe (TJ), Gursarn Uppal with Hartley, David Crowder with Billy, George Carmichael with Jonah, Darrell Romine with Kauna



Class No. 03-10 – Team 5

Apprentice Instructor Jorge Livingston, Charles Lynch with Micah, Amy Coyle with Lucy, Robert Taylor with Cole, John Ruede with Megan, Gilberto Pastrana with Chip, James Miller with Buddy

Heat Stroke

Dogs regulate their body temperature differently than humans do. The most apparent difference is that they do not sweat to cool themselves and must rely on panting as the primary means of cooling their bodies. When the respiratory tract cannot evacuate heat quickly enough through panting, the body temperature rises. Normal body temperature is less than 103° F, but once the temperature goes over 105° F, a number of physiologic events can occur that make it more difficult for the animal to thermoregulate. Heat stroke occurs when the dog's ability to regulate its body temperature is lost. If the temperature exceeds 108° F, cellular damage starts to occur in many organ systems including the kidneys, liver, gastrointestinal tract, heart and brain. The extent of injury to the internal organs depends on the magnitude and duration of the temperature elevation.

Dogs experiencing heat stroke usually present with extreme panting, excessive salivation, elevated heart rate and dark-colored gums. Most will be stuporous and tend to walk very slowly. The animal is generally shocky, may seizure or be comatose.

Heat stroke is an emergency that requires veterinary assistance, but you can effectively initiate treatment in most cases before arriving at the veterinary hospital. Since the lungs cannot keep up with the heat buildup, the skin must be cooled to allow the body temperature to decrease. Submersion or hosing of the dog in cool water will start to bring the temperature down quickly. It is important to avoid extremely cold water or ice since they cause blood vessels in the skin to constrict, not allowing for significant heat exchange. Wet the dog's entire body, then let the water run continuously

in the groin area since there are large numbers of superficial blood vessels in that area that will allow for more rapid cooling. The dog should be in a well-ventilated, shady area to allow for evaporation of the water. Evaporation cools body temperatures very effectively.

The animal should receive veterinary attention as soon as possible after the initial attempt has been made to decrease the body temperature. Intravenous fluids will usually be administered to combat dehydration and treat shock. Supportive care and monitoring is very important in heat stroke victims, since life-threatening sequelae often develop following the episode of hyperthermia.

Dogs regulate their body temperature differently than humans do.



Obviously, prevention of heat stroke is a far better alternative than treatment. Common sense goes a long way in the prevention of heat stroke. Everyone is aware of the risks of having a dog in a vehicle in the summer, but there are some less obvious risk factors that we all need to be aware of. Even moderate environmental temperatures can be very significant when there is little or no ventilation. We also need to be conscious of those animals that are at increased risk, which would include older dogs, those with heart disease, and those who are obese. Being aware of the various risk factors as well as environmental considerations should help avoid this potentially devastating problem. 🐾



Veterinary Corner

Dr. Laura Fisher DVM



You're Raising a What?


This will be a new question some of our raisers will be faced with as Leader Dog tries a larger variety of breeds. In the past years we have tried other breeds as well as crossbreeds to varied success. The Standard Poodle has been a success for a small niche of our students and we will continue to search out additional candidates. Some of you may have remembered the Australian Shepherds. Although some success was seen, they did not fit the niche we were looking for so efforts were put into finding other breeds.

The breeding committee has polled the training staff for alternative breeds they believe could fit into our program. In the future we may see even more variety. Today, out and about sporting their puppy jackets, you will find two new breeds we are trying. We have entered four Vizsla puppies and an Airedale to our puppy program. Like the Australian Shepherds, we are looking for a dog to fill a niche. If these puppies show good potential, we will look for more candidates until we have enough to base a decision on. We will revisit some breeds that have been successful in the past such as Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Flat Coated Retrievers, Smooth Collies, Flat Coated Retriever crossed with Labradors and Golden Retrievers crossed with Labradors.

Crossbreeds! Yes, you did read correctly. Can you imagine a Labcoat or a Goldador? We have no intentions of creating a new breed but we don't want to perpetuate the mistake "golden Lab." Yellow Labradors, no matter the shade of yellow, are "yellow." Golden Retrievers, no matter how light or dark are "gold." The crossbreeds here will be referred to as

Golden/Lab cross or Flat Coat/Lab cross.

But seriously, on many levels, breeding two different breeds together can offer us great benefits. Breeding two purebred dogs can create a litter of puppies that can excel beyond their parents. This phenomenon is called Hybrid Vigor. A brief reasoning behind this is that hereditary issues that are not common in both breeds will not show up creating, in the first generation, a healthier dog. We will be selecting stock to crossbreed to eliminate a known issue as well as salvage a breeding stock dog we may have otherwise had to retire. We will not be accepting crossbreed puppies from the public into the program. We will only be breeding the first generation, so all crossbreed puppies will be neutered.

So next time you see a Future Leader Dog and you aren't sure what breed it is, just ask . . . you're raising a what? 



**Puppy
Department**

Samantha Ziegenmeyer

The Very Best Breed

Team 6, Keith McGregor, Sue Horn, Michelle Tocco

Best!

Every day we are asked the question "which breed of dog is the best?" We are also faced with the responsibility of choosing the correct dog for the job. The answer to the question is difficult. One instructor might say that Labrador Retrievers are the best; while the next would indicate their favorite is the German shepherd. We also get many opinions of what other people think may be the best dog for us to train for guide work.

But . . . ?

We are very familiar with comments made by people that put dogs in categories. Some may be as follows:

Cross bred dogs aren't as good as pure bred dogs.

Labradors don't shed as much as Golden Retrievers.

I have to have a Golden Retriever because I had one before and it will be just like my other dog.

I want a German Shepherd because they are tough.

Poodles don't shed.

I have to have a puppy program dog because the other dogs aren't as good.

Wait a minute!

Although a few of these statements might have some truth in them, they are not 100% true. For example, although a Poodle might not shed like other breeds they do loose some hair, and have different grooming needs than a Lab or a Shepherd.

Just the Facts

Let us give you some facts about the dogs we use at Leader Dog. We use three breeds that tend to fit the basic requirements. They are Labrador Retrievers, Golden Retrievers and German Shepherds. We also use cross bred dogs that have the same body structure and temperament as the pure bred dogs. Another breed that you might see around our kennel is the Standard Poodle. And, of course, we are looking at integrating a few more breeds as the need for their services evolves.


Attitude & Perspective

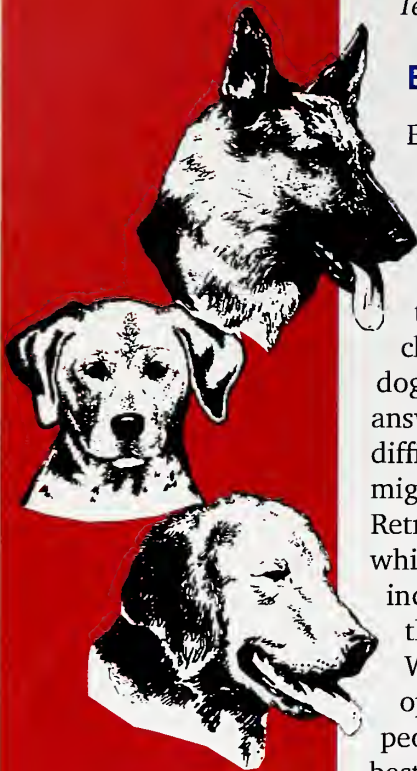
So, which of these breeds are the best? The problem with answering this is that dogs, like people, have their own personality. Therefore, it might not fit the typical description of that particular breed. It is true that we tend to use

more Labrador Retrievers than the other breeds at Leader Dog. This must mean that the Labs win! They must be the best! WAIT, not so fast. Again, this depends on many different things. The first trait we generally look for is a dog that is friendly. The next might be its eagerness to please. Other traits could be the dog's level of excitability, or its ability to settle down quickly. There are so many different traits that we could go on and on. Most instructors will agree that the best dog is the one that's happy doing this work.

The "Best" is up to You!

So, when filling out the breed preference portion of a Leader Dog application, you may want to consider this, what you have heard about a breed may not be the complete story, and if you get the breed you prefer, it may be different than you thought it would be. The varying personality of the dogs continues to keep this an exciting and rewarding profession.

If you have questions about different traits of the breeds we use, please feel free to contact us. 





Who is Daize?

Daize's name became fairly well known at Leader Dog in the past few months. As part of our expansion and changes in the breeding program, longtime breeding friends of Leader Dog, Dr. Al W. and Mark Stinson, donated Daize. She was not alone, Daize was with pup. Actually, eleven. Daize is a seven-year-old

flat coat retriever. Her daughter Patsy was also donated to our program. She, too, gave birth to a litter of pups here at Leader Dog, although hers was a bit more manageable at eight.



Although kenneling dogs and raising litters of pups is not the normal

practice here, in this case an exception was made. Daize stayed in Puppyland through her

pregnancy, whelping of her litter and weaning six weeks following. She and her brood were cared for by a variety of individuals. The vet staff was on hand to serve all of her medical needs, the puppyland staff cared for her and the litter through the day and evening, while volunteers came in to socialize the young litter as to better prepare them for foster families once they reached seven weeks of age.

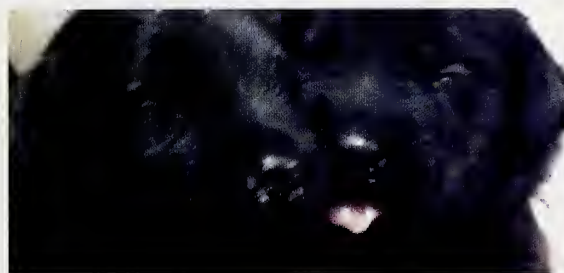


In doing so, a wide variety of people came to know and love Daize. Once her pups were weaned, Daize was offered an early buyout – she agreed retirement was a good option at

this time.

Her litter of eleven seemed like a nice note on which to end that career! With toy bunny (her favorite) in

mouth, Daize has settled into a luxurious life of retirement. Lapping up the praise and living life as a love sponge.



Badger X Trax	2 GSD
Greta X Sully	2 GSD
Sweet X Leo	7 Golden/Lab
Ramsi X Sully	2 GSD
Molly X Olaf	5 GSD
Compass Rose X Rovair ...	7 Lab
Daize X Slick	11 Flat Coat/Lab
Patsy X Buck	7 Flat Coat/Lab
Dixie X Truman	10 GSD
Morgan X Quincy	5 Golden
Daisy X Olaf	8 Lab
Heidi X Hunter	13 Golden



**New
Arrivals**

In the Community

Dead Dave Open

As in so many years past (12 to be exact) the Godfrey brothers, Michael, Mark and Dennis, gathered to honor the memory of their father, Dave, who died 20 years ago before playing a "relaxing" game of golf. To commemorate his memory, the brothers invite friends and family alike to play and raise a glass in his name. As this was an annual event, with ready followers, the brothers felt they could use this opportunity for an additional promotion. Beginning with last year's event, they transformed the day into a fundraiser for Leader Dogs for the Blind.



Dennis (left at front) is a graduate of Leader Dog's program. He and Buck attended last year's benefit, while this year he was accompanied by Bravo, his new Leader Dog. Buck retired a few months after the 2002 Dead Dave Open. Always held the last Sunday in April, make sure to mark your calendars for the 2004 outing.

Celebrity Support

Herman Moore (pictured above with sons and puppy raisers), former wide receiver with the Detroit Lions, is truly an entrepreneur. In addition to his record-filled football history, he is also a successful businessman. Among his establishments are 15 Cinnabon locations, the Breadeaux Pizza franchise in MI and, most recently, the opening of the Ah!Mooré chain. He and his family have shown great support of Leader Dogs for the Blind in recent months and will be continuing that relationship through the chairing of the First Annual Leader Dogs for the Blind Golf Invitational held June 2. 🐾

Join in the Leader Dog Fun with These Upcoming Events

Nestle Purina and Pet Supplies Plus have joined in a partnership with a select list of locations to promote their products as well as Leader Dogs for the Blind. For six consecutive Saturdays, beginning June 7, Leader Dog puppy raisers will be in specially selected locations of Pet Supplies Plus. This is a wonderful opportunity as it partners the school with well established community businesses to garner exposure and generate interest in the school's programs. Donations will be accepted on site those days as well as a special opportunity offered to all customers checking out at the register that day.

Local area promoters and entertainers will be performing at the 2nd Annual Grass Lake Folk Festival on Saturday, August 23. All proceeds from the weekend will benefit Leader Dogs for the Blind. For additional information send e-mail to: thewouldman@aol.com. 🐾

My Leader Dog Experience

Being a Rochester native, I have seen the Leader Dog trainers working their dogs in training around downtown Rochester all my life. It is something that has always piqued my interest, and when I found out my first year in veterinary school at Michigan State that it was possible to do an externship at the school, I jumped at the chance. I was fortunate to get one of the spots offered to third or fourth year vet students and just completed my three week externship at the beginning of March.

My first day at the school was very overwhelming. The sheer number of dogs the veterinarians are responsible for was enough, but added to that, I had to learn how to handle and treat guide dogs of all ages and to interact with their blind handlers. Luckily, I had some excellent mentors in Dr. David Smith and Dr. Laura Fisher, the two full time veterinarians at Leader Dogs, and their technician, Michelle. They were more than happy to share their expertise and experiences with me. I was able to participate in numerous surgeries, physical exams, appointments, and x-ray evaluations, learning every step of the way how guide dogs are similar and different from the dogs I treated every day at Michigan State. I honed the skills I had been learning at school and developed many new ones. I was even able to be present for a Caesarian section, and it was an incredible experience to hold a newborn puppy in my hands and welcome her into the world.

One of my favorite experiences at the school was being present for Issue Day, when the blind students first meet the dogs that will become their best friends. I was completely unprepared for the emotion and joy

in the dormitory as the dogs are brought to the students by the trainers that have been with them for five months. It was impossible not to be moved watching the students bond with their new dogs. Observing the dogs and students growing closer over the three weeks I was at the school was also very special.

I was also able to interact a great deal with the guide dog trainers, which is an experience few veterinarians get to have. I spent three different afternoons with a group of trainers, following them as they worked with their dogs in downtown Rochester and Royal Oak. I learned so much about the things sighted people take for granted – knowing when to get off stairs or off an escalator, knowing that the traffic is clear, even knowing which side a door opens on. Finally, I was blindfolded and taken on a route with a dog of my own. Suddenly I had a whole new appreciation for the ability of the blind student to place so much faith and confidence in the animal by their side!

Overall, I was very impressed with the dedication displayed by every member of the Leader Dogs staff. Everyone works very hard to ensure that each dog is happy and healthy during their stay at the school and that their training is excellent so they can guide their new owners safely through life. It was an experience that I am honored to have had, and one that will stay with me for a long time. 🐾



Erin Spitzer



**Do you have a Leader Dog
Souvenir Catalog?**

Show your support to Leader Dog with our logo
apparel and other items

Call Toll Free (888) 777-5332

Just a Reminder

Recently, during an exit interview with graduate students, a suggestion was made that instructors emphasize to all graduate students that it takes six months to a year to break-in or season a new dog. The graduate making the suggestion reminded me that this fact was true whether it was a second, third or any number of successor dogs. Other graduates at this meeting, some from other schools, agreed. They acknowledged it was a known and generally accepted fact but also felt it was one they were guilty of overlooking.

I spent time in reviewing our lecture material, (tapes, Braille and Large Print) as well as talking to numerous instructors. I found reference to this fact in the material and all the instructors I spoke

with indicated it was something they felt they did stress and that it was something they believed to be true. I now add in bold print **it will take the average student from six months to a year to season or break-in a new dog no matter how many dogs they have had in the past.** Saying average means some will take less but it also means some will take longer. Be prepared for the longer and if it is less, be very pleased.

What are the common problems faced with any new dog? Big on the list is establishing park or relief schedules. Many students become frustrated with "accidents" some while working and some in the home. People can adjust their schedules in this area by just going when needed. Dogs are dependent on their

human partners for help with this and it requires patience and understanding. It often has to do with suddenly being in a different area with possibly different feeding times and a schedule very different from that of class. It also has to do with trying many different suggestions and never giving any one of them a chance to work. We have some new ideas we will be trying once we are in the new facility to help in this area but the patience and understanding will still have to come from the human end of the leash.

Distractions and pace are the next two most common areas of difficulty. Just as each dog feels a little different in the harness to a student, so each person seems to walk a little differently from the dog's point of view. Reaching that happy medium where the person has the trust and understanding to know that their dog's slower pace in a given situation is best, and the dog in turn learns when a faster pace is uncomfortable to the person **takes time.** Even though dogs are worked in many different areas during training, they are all in Michigan where sights, sounds, and smells are similar. A new area where all these may

be new and different can be an initial culture shock to any dog. **It takes time** for the new to become familiar and reach that "no big deal" attitude to all the distractions in the new working environment. Working together through praise, encouragement and correction, when needed, will bring most of these challenges under control.

Finally, there is the area of destruction. Our new facility will provide the opportunity for us to work on this aspect of a dog's behavior more effectively while here, if necessary. However, the best advice is to remember that freedom is earned. While going home and suddenly turning a dog loose and leaving it alone may not cause a problem, in most cases, it opens the door to many problems. Why open the door? It is easier to prevent a problem than to solve it.

Please remember the numbers, **six months to a year.** Please remember that every instructor wants you to succeed. When problems occur we do everything possible to help but we cannot make time go faster and break-in will always take time, work, common sense and lots of patience on your part and on the part of those around you. 🐾





Smile . . . You're on Candid Camera!

We asked and you answered. You will find here a variety of submissions from puppy raisers both local and some from afar. They sent in their precious memories via pictures and stories of some of their best moments raising their pups. Each photo has a brief caption to round out the story and explain what the picture may not.

Each year, there is a Blessing of the Animals at the St. John's Episcopal Church in Royal Oak (above). Although this may not be for everyone, the possibility of a little intervention from a higher power never hurt – least of all these loyal and trusting future workers!

A library (below) is a

place for quiet learning and the gleaning of information. Sometimes even the library “goes to the dogs – Future Leader Dogs that is. Here, puppy raisers put on a program for the Royal Oak Library – one of many such that our volunteers do each year.

Bill Mai was very excited to raise a Leader Dog –



not unlike most first time raisers. Bailey (above) would not only be raised for a great purpose but also with great privilege – daily visits to work with Bill, a legislative attorney, often taking Bailey to the capitol itself. Unlike most laymen, Bailey was introduced and had access to four of the five top elected

officials, although, not the governor. In addition to this exciting routine, Bailey experienced the joy of flying early on. Which explains why this year old pup very patiently waited by the windows and watched the airplanes while awaiting her return to Leader Dog with Bill.





An enjoyable day was had by all at the First Annual Leader Dogs for the Blind Celebrity Golf Invitational. Chaired by Herman Moore, former all star wide receiver for the Detroit Lions, the event was host to a number of area celebrities. Fox 2 Morning Show anchors Lucy Noland and Alan Lee participated as well as Lem Barney, Jim Brandstatter, Mike Weger, and Scott Kowalkowski. Wright & Filippis generously committed to the Title sponsorship for the inaugural event.

The R & S Sharf Course on the grounds of Oakland University provided players with an exciting and challenging round of golf. The weather was at its peak that day, with balmy breezes, sunshine and temperatures in the low 70's – any nicer and one could have argued we had an “in” with a higher power!

Awards were presented in a number of categories, including closest to the pin, men's and women's long drive, best individual score and best team score. A putting contest and hole in one contest also challenged golfers for the day and proved to be a big hit. Numerous volunteers assisted in the tracking of those qualifying and contestant winners.

Leader Dog extends its thanks to the attendees, volunteers, and sponsors for their generous contribution of time and financial support. Special appreciation goes out to Herman Moore and Wright and Filippis for their tremendous efforts on our behalf. Through their aid, our first annual event was a large success on which we hope to continue to grow.



**WRIGHT
&
FILIPPIS**





Support Leader Dog with Holiday Greeting Cards



Greeting Cards

All cards are 5 x 7 inches packaged with colored envelopes in sets of 20.



6

"May your holidays be filled with warmth and wonder."

2

"Enjoy the holidays"



Celebrate the Season



6

"May this season's greetings bring peace on earth and good will to all mankind."



6

"With warm thoughts and best wishes this holiday season!"



7

"May your days be merry, your heart be light – your holidays happy, your season bright."



Postcards

All postcards are 4" x 6" packaged (with no envelopes) in sets of 20.



3

"Wishing you every happiness this holiday season & throughout the coming year."



8

"May your holidays be filled with warmth and wonder."



Season's Greetings



Season's Greetings

6

"Wishing you a beautiful holiday season and a new year of peace and happiness"



8

"May your holiday season be filled with peace, love and friends!"



11

"May this season's greetings bring peace on earth and good will to all mankind."

2003 Card Order Form

This gift has been given by:

Name _____ Phone () _____
 Address _____
 City/State/ZIP _____

Thank you for your support!

Payment Information

☐ Check enclosed (payable to Leader Dogs for the Blind)
 Card #: _____ Exp: _____
 Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard
 Authorized card holder's signature _____

Your donation is 100% tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Leader Dogs for the Blind is a 501 (c)(3) organization.

06/03

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone () _____

☐ Payment enclosed: Check # _____ Amount \$ _____
 Make checks payable to: LEADER DOG CARD COMMITTEE

☐ Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card No. _____ Exp. _____

Signature: _____

(Signature required for credit card orders)

Mail or Fax order with payment to:
 LEADER DOG CARD COMMITTEE
 P.O. Box 81366, Rochester, MI 48308
 Phone (888) 777-5332 • Fax (248) 651-5812

SORRY — NO RETURNS OR C.O.D.

g Gift Annuities

Benefits when you donate \$10,000 for a gift annuity

Age	Annual income*	Tax deduction
70	\$ 650	\$3397
80	\$ 800	\$4497
90	\$ 1130	\$5537

* Plus, a portion of this is tax-free

ible gift annuity work for me?

thdate: _____ (minimums: age 50 / \$10,000 gift)

0 ☐ \$50,000 ☐ \$100,000

: Steve Riikonen, Director of Planned Giving
 O. Box 5000, Rochester, MI 48308-5000

Support Leader Dog with Holiday Greeting Cards



Greeting Cards

All cards are 5 x 7 inches packaged with colored envelopes in sets of 20.



1

"May your holidays be filled with warmth and wonder."



5

"May this bring peace and good will"

2

"Enjoy the holidays"



Celebrate the Season



3

"Wishing you every happiness this holiday season & throughout the coming year."



Season's Greetings

4

"Wishing you a beautiful holiday season and a new year of peace and happiness"

Leader Dogs
for
the Blind®
P.O. Box 5000
Rochester, MI 48308-5000



First Class
Postage
Required
Post Office will
not deliver
without proper
postage.

all mankind."

2003 Card Order Form

QTY	NUMBER / DESCRIPTION	DONATION	AMOUNT
_____	1 Shep in Basket	\$15.00	_____
_____	2 Trees	\$15.00	_____
_____	3 Cradle	\$15.00	_____
_____	4 Jensen	\$15.00	_____
_____	5 Lion/Dog	\$15.00	_____
_____	6 Wreath	\$15.00	_____
_____	7 Black Lab	\$15.00	_____
_____	8 Shep in Basket (PC)	\$5.00	_____
_____	9 Shepherd (PC)	\$5.00	_____
_____	10 Jensen (PC)	\$5.00	_____
_____	11 Lion/Dog (PC)	\$5.00	_____

DONATION _____

SHIPPING & HANDLING

1 - 3 PKGS. = \$3.00

3 - 5 PKGS. = \$8.00

6 or More Packages = \$15.00

TOTAL ENCLOSED _____

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Phone (____) _____

☐ Payment enclosed: Check # _____ Amount \$ _____

Make checks payable to: LEADER DOG CARD COMMITTEE

☐ Please charge my: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card No. _____ Exp. _____

Signature: _____

(Signature required for credit card orders)

Mail or Fax order with payment to:

LEADER DOG CARD COMMITTEE

P.O. Box 81366, Rochester, MI 48308

Phone (888) 777-5332 • Fax (248) 651-5812

SORRY — NO RETURNS OR C.O.D.

Leader Dog Gift Annuities

- Increase your income and make a meaningful gift to our dogs and puppies
- Lock in a guaranteed lifetime income
- Save capital gains and income taxes
- Support our canine heroes

Benefits when you donate \$10,000 for a gift annuity

Age	Annual income*	Tax deduction
70	\$ 650	\$3397
80	\$ 800	\$4497
90	\$ 1130	\$5537

* Plus, a portion of this is tax-free

How would a charitable gift annuity work for me?

My birthdate: _____ My spouse's birthdate: _____ (minimums: age 50 / \$10,000 gift)

Sample gift amount: ☐ \$10,000 ☐ \$25,000 ☐ \$50,000 ☐ \$100,000

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please return completed form to: Steve Riikonen, Director of Planned Giving
Leader Dogs for the Blind, P.O. Box 5000, Rochester, MI 48308-5000

Leader Dogs for the Blind®

P. O. Box 5000
Rochester, MI 48308-5000
Toll Free (888) 777-5332
Phone (248) 651-9011
www.leaderdog.org



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rochester, MI
Permit No. 104

*****AUTO**3-DIGIT 100
AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND
11 PENN PLZ STE 300
NEW YORK NY 10001-2006



Inside

It's Almost Ready	2
Staff News.....	2
What's Developing in Development?	3
Crosswalk.....	4
Happy Mother's Day!	4
Graduate Corner	5
Graduates	6
Veterinary Corner.....	8
Puppy Department	9
The Very Best Breed	10
Who is Daize?	11
New Arrivals	11
In the Community	12
My Leader Dog Experience	13
Training	14
Smile . . . You're on Candid Camera	15
First Annual Celebrity Golf Outing	16
Greeting Cards	18
Leader Dog Gift Annuities	19

2003 Calendar of Events

June 29th	Class No. 04-01
July 11th-12th & 13th	Lions Summer Visit
July 26th	Puppy Day
July 27th	Class No. 04-02
August 8th-9th & 10th	Lions Summer Visit
August 24th	Class No. 04-03
September 6th	15th Annual Leader Dog Gala
September 11th-13th	O & M Seminar
September 11th	Finance Committee Meeting
September 16th	Executive Committee Meeting
September 21st	Class No. 04-04
October 1st	Annual Board Meeting
October 10th & 11th	MI & PA Leader Dog Chairman Visit
October 14th	District 11-D-1 & 11-D-2 Open House
October 19th	Class No. 04-05
November 16th	Class No. 04-06
November 23rd	11th Annual Lead In the Holidays
December 3rd	54th Annual Leader Dog Kick-Off Luncheon
December 10th	Volunteer Luncheon

SPRING * 2004

Leader Dog

UPDATE



Leader Dog's AMP is next step in comprehensive care for the blind

Leader Dogs for the Blind is taking steps in providing comprehensive services to the blind community. The Accelerated Mobility Program (AMP) is one such step.

Since January 2003, Leader Dog has offered a small number of orientation and mobility classes to help blind persons brush up on their

mobility skills prior to being matched with a dog. These skills are important in order to work a dog efficiently and with the best

results. The offering of AMP on Leader Dog's campus allows the students a one time application for both services. Once they have completed the AMP, they return home to fine tune those skills and prepare to partner with a dog.

The hiring of Shelly Weidmayer, an Orientation and Mobility Specialist, now enables the school to offer AMP classes throughout the year. Her

presence will make it possible for additional students to receive these services on a more consistent basis.

Ryan King of Daytona, FL is a graduate of the January 2004 AMP. He arrived at Leader Dog having mastered many independent living skills, however, was eager to enhance life's experiences by

partnering with a leader dog. This partnership will allow him to travel at a comfortable, natural pace. He will find more social doors open for him and,

of course with any good team, he will discover the two of them, in time, will work as one. Upon the writing of this article, Ryan was in class at Leader Dog working with his new partner, Tilda.

Once a year, Leader Dog teams with Western Michigan University (WMU) not only to host an AMP class, but to do so with the combined effort of some of WMU's graduate students. WMU offers what is

Continued on page 12

I N S I D E

2

*Message
from the
president*



3

*Leader dog
sends warm
wishes*



5

*Therapy
Dogs win
Michigan
Award*



7

*Grad Corner,
New Arrivals
& Retired*



13

*Staff
receive
honors*



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – *Bill Hansen*

Throughout the year, Leader Dog has initiated many improvements and adjustments. We have opened the Polk Center, added an Orientation and Mobility Specialist to run the AMP, and introduced a Chief Financial Officer to our staff. With the recent additions and changes, we are also in the process of working with our board on a strategic plan – one that will provide us with a clear focus for our future.

Coming soon will be modifications to our mission statement, new fundraising initiatives and a remodeled dormitory that our administrative team will call home. Our facility will also have its share of visitors in the coming months. We have a dedication ceremony and a series of open

houses this Spring which will officially introduce the Polk Center to the neighborhood and to Leader Dog family and friends. The 2004 Lions International Convention is in Detroit in July. Leader Dog will host the VIP Host Committee prior to the convention and then expects well over 1,000 visitors during the following 10 days. The next six months hold a great deal of excitement.

This year is also the 65th anniversary of Leader Dogs for the Blind. We recently welcomed a returning student from 1949 – Enid Bourne. She resided and received her first dog, Tarsan, in the original farmhouse. Although we will be bidding it adieu soon (likely by the time you read this), it is a bittersweet goodbye. The farmhouse seems to be the center

point of many of those 65 years in memories for grads and staff alike. However, like the rest of the Leader Dog family, Enid was elated with the changes since 1949 and was quite comfortable in her resident "digs" at the Polk Center.

The distances traveled and provisions made in 65 years are remarkable. As we continue to strive as leaders in our field, we need to be mindful of our humble beginnings and the thanks we owe to Dodge, Nutting and Schuur who made vision a reality for so many.



Leader Dog welcomes *new team members*

The Leader Dog family extends a warm welcome to Chief Financial Officer Sue Daniels, who joined the staff on January 26, 2004. She brings to the Leader Dog team 17 years of experience in the non-profit sector, splitting her previous non-profit time between Credit Counseling Centers and the American Red Cross of Southeastern Michigan.

During her previous employment with the Red Cross, Susan was responsible for the fiscal management of the chapter, served as Administrative Officer and provided overall leadership to ensure smooth success

when managing the \$8 to \$9 million budget. She was key in the distribution of millions of dollars in a 3-month time frame during the 9/11 disaster relief efforts in which the American Red Cross played a key role.

Susan and her husband Robert (Bob) have been married for nearly 23 years and share in the joy of two children, Stephanie, 18 and Keith, 14.

Well wishes and welcome are also extended to Shelly Weidmayer. She has joined the LD staff as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist. Her graduate work at Western Michigan University was

completed in December, with undergrad studies in Travel Training. Shelly will oversee the AMP and all immediate related matters, such as curriculum changes and additions.

A home grown Michigianian, Shelly is happy to be on board and anxious to use her talents to ensure the success of the AMP.



Shelly Weidmayer

Sue Daniels

A LETTER FROM A FRIEND...

Leader Dog sends "warmest wishes" from Spain

Leader Dogs
for
the Blind®

P.O. Box 5000
Rochester, MI 48308-5000

First Class
Postage
Required
Post Office will
not deliver
without proper
postage.



"park" together in Chicago, we were off to Spain, ing this country. I think this is why my partner, rough the tunnel towards the plane and then

gh we were all a bit frightened because one of the ken. My partner said that as long as it was only ors in, all was fine... The IBERIA people had had a lot of space to lie down like a frog, like I

trip. I only got up when they brought that delicious know why people say it's lousy; it smelled pretty k and refused to sit down, so my partner took out

You can imagine how I immediately began to smell

es, which didn't want to show up, we talked with le, who came to welcome the whole group. They were beautiful. This really boosts one's morale, in spite of "one."

and there were a lot of people. There was a big t, and flowers, and photos - lots of photos - and ver on my back so everyone could honor me by ve me my first two treats in Madrid. I think they hat we all went out to "park" and they came with me. vere on our way. We dropped off Alejandro and Fani, nd we arrived at my new kennel. aren't any other dogs or that ing to give Jose. There was that I like to chase when I see

ny new home. Respecting the

hborhood. It's nice and pretty tore my partner visits often. of food, candy and bread. fine here. This new one, adores me. So, I'm sure you will be

es for you from Maggie



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - *Bill Hansen*

Throughout the year, Leader Dog has initiated many improvements and adjustments. We have opened the Polk Center, added an Orientation and Mobility Specialist to run the AMP, and introduced a Chief Financial Officer to our staff. With the recent additions and changes, we are also in the process of working with our board on a strategic plan - one that will provide us with a clear focus for our future.

Coming soon will be modifications to our mission statement, new fundraising initiatives and a remodeled dormitory that our administrative team will call home. Our facility will also have its share of visitors in the coming months. We have a dedication ceremony and a series of open

houses this Spring which will officially introduce the Polk Center to the neighborhood and Dog family and friends. Lions International Convention in Detroit in July. Lead host the VIP Host Committee prior to the convention expects well over 1,000 during the following 10 next six months hold a of excitement.

This year is also the anniversary of Leader Dog the Blind. We recently a returning student from Enid Bourne. She recently received her first dog, the original farmhouse we will be bidding it a (likely by the time you it is a bittersweet good farmhouse seems to be

point of many of



This gift has been given by:

Name _____

Phone () _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Thank you for your support!

Payment Information

☐ Check enclosed (payable to *Leader Dogs for the Blind*)

Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card #: _____

Exp: _____

Authorized card holder's signature _____

3/04

Your donation is 100% tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Leader Dogs for the Blind is a 501 (c)(3) organization.

Leader Dog welcomes new team member

The Leader Dog family extends a warm welcome to Chief Financial Officer Sue Daniels, who joined the staff on January 26, 2004. She brings to the Leader Dog team 17 years of experience in the non-profit sector, splitting her previous non-profit time between Credit Counseling Centers and the American Red Cross of Southeastern Michigan.

During her previous employment with the Red Cross, Susan was responsible for the fiscal management of the chapter, served as Administrative Officer and provided overall leadership to ensure smooth success

when managing the \$ million budget. She was in the distribution of of dollars in a 3-month frame during the 9/11 relief efforts in which American Red Cross played a key role.

Susan and her husband Robert (Bob) have been married for nearly 23 and share in the joy of children, Stephanie, 1 Keith, 14.

Well wishes and v are also extended to Susan Weidmayer. She has joined the LD staff as an Orientation and Mobility Specialist graduate work at Western Michigan University v

A LETTER FROM A FRIEND...

Leader Dog sends "warmest wishes" from Spain

Dearest Wendy,

I'm Maggie (Golden). After our last "park" together in Chicago, we were off to Spain, quite sad, as a matter of fact, to be leaving this country. I think this is why my partner, Yolanda, shed a few tears as we went through the tunnel towards the plane and then during take-off.

Our trip to Madrid went well, although we were all a bit frightened because one of the plane's communication antennas had broken. My partner said that as long as it was only this and not the screws that hold the motors in, all was fine... The IBERIA people had blocked off many seats for all of us, so I had a lot of space to lie down like a frog, like I usually do.

I behaved very well during the whole trip. I only got up when they brought that delicious food that they serve on airplanes. I don't know why people say it's lousy; it smelled pretty good to me! I put on my challenging look and refused to sit down, so my partner took out my bone and that was it.

At last we reached our destination. You can imagine how I immediately began to smell everything like crazy.

While Barbara picked up the suitcases, which didn't want to show up, we talked with some of the Lions Club and ONCE people, who came to welcome the whole group. They were very kind and told us that we were all beautiful. This really boosts one's morale, in spite of being starved and dying to do at least a "one."

Then we left the hall of the airport and there were a lot of people. There was a big banner welcoming Maggie and Yolanda, and flowers, and photos – lots of photos – and shouts of joy and admiration. I rolled over on my back so everyone could honor me by scratching my tummy. Some children gave me my first two treats in Madrid. I think they were my new playmates because after that we all went out to "park" and they came with me.

We all got into a car together and were on our way. We dropped off Alejandro and Fani, my new little friends, at their school, and we arrived at my new kennel. It's big, real big, but it's too bad there aren't any other dogs or that "Leader Cat" of yours that you were going to give Jose. There was only one of those animals with wings that I like to chase when I see them on the ground.

My partner allowed me to smell my new home. Respecting the rules, she did this with my leash on.

I've taken a few walks in the neighborhood. It's nice and pretty and what I like best, up to now, is a store my partner visits often. It smells heavenly; there are all kinds of food, candy and bread.

I think that I am going to be just fine here. This new family – which I hope will be the last one, adores me. So, even though I am no longer with you, I'm sure you will be happy to know that I am well.

A kiss for them and a hundred kisses for you from Maggie (Golden).

Woof, woof, woof!



VETERINARY CORNER

By David Smith, DVM

Director of Veterinary Services



News about heartworm prevention products

This is the time of year many dogs have their annual heartworm test. This year your veterinarian has numerous products for heartworm prevention.

Veterinarians in some areas are also suggesting year-round usage. Justification for year-round usage has been attributed to changing weather trends, more complete intestinal parasite control and ease of use. These products are often used simultaneously with an additional product for flea and tick prevention. The appropriate integration and selection of these two groups of medications should involve your veterinarian. He can help determine the best products for you and your dog, based on your needs, your geographic area and his experience.

Changes in vaccination guidelines

Vaccinations are used to provide protection from disease by stimulating the immune system with small amounts of the germ that causes the disease. If exposure then occurs, the body's defenses help to prevent the exposure from becoming a full-blown infection.

Your veterinarian may suggest an alteration in the frequency of administration of some of your dog's vaccinations.

Some vaccination protocols, such as for Rabies, are controlled by your state. The remainders are based on manufacturer recommendations, disease prevalence in your area, the individual dog (age, health and exposure) tradition and other factors. It appears some of our vaccinations may last longer than the manufacturer or we realized. Some veterinarians are

recommending longer vaccination intervals for different diseases, fearing that over vaccination may cause its own health concern. However, there are specialists who argue that the rationale for changing an effective program may be lacking, and we will increase the incidence of diseases we now have under control. Confusing this issue is the fact that it is common to use a product combining many vaccines in one syringe and extending the interval will cause a definite lapse of coverage for some components.

The bottom line: It has become apparent that no single vaccine protocol is correct for every dog in every area. This is another area that your local veterinarian will work with you and your dog to provide the best recommended plan.

Case of the month

While screening this dog for Leader Dog training, we came upon the following incidental finding. There was no current vomiting or diarrhea and the dog was acting normal. What do you think it is (1)?



We chose to perform an endoscopy to look inside the stomach and hopefully remove the foreign object.

This is what we found (2). We were lucky in that the rock and plastic piece were surrounded by the cloth material and came out as one unit, otherwise the rock would have been too large to grasp with our forceps and we would have needed to



perform an abdominal surgery. Recovery was uneventful and the dog was accepted into the Leader Dog program.

The bottom line: Dogs sometimes eat things they should not, especially young dogs. Usually, we will see symptoms of abdominal discomfort, vomiting or diarrhea. If your dog has such symptoms, call your vet.

Therapy Dogs win Michigan Award

There are champions in our midst at Leader Dog. But a bit of history first...

In 1996, Carol Ruby and therapy dog Goose Chase worked together diligently to present an image to Crittenton Hospital in Rochester, Michigan – an image of grace, compassion and responsibility. Carol was determined to bring dog therapy to the hospital, a program which many others were embracing and receiving great results. Crittenton recognized, after visits with Chase, that his presence benefitted many of the patients, thus the therapy dog program began. Now seven

and a half years later, Carol and a group of other volunteers visit the Behavioral, Rehabilitation, Oncology, Hospice, and Pediatrics units twice a month.

Carol and Chase were not new to volunteering. A 3 year old male Golden Retriever with numerous awards and certificates, Chase participated in therapy programs from an early age. In addition to his therapy dog status, Chase was also a proud papa for Leader Dogs for the Blind. In his years of service to Leader Dog, Chase helped produce 5 litters and 37 puppies. Now 10 years old and retired from breeding, Chase rests a bit more, but still enjoys his visits to Crittenton.

About three years ago, a new puppy came into Carol and Chase's lives. Meadowpond Nautical Asset, "Skipper" for short, sailed through trials, tests and championships. He, too, is a registered therapy dog and a donated stud to Leader Dog, with 26 puppies (and counting) continuing his lineage in our program.

We have always been thankful for the assistance offered by generous breeding donations such as Carol's. We are especially proud to have



Skipper's genes included as he was just awarded the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association's Therapy/Companion Dog of the Year. He was also recently awarded Top Obedience Dog in the Fort Detroit Golden Retriever Club.

Carol comments that Skipper happily learns all she asks and has delivered results above and beyond her expectations. With these helper genes in his blood, we can't possibly go wrong!

In addition to this fantastic news, one of Leader Dog's own breeding stock, Angel, a female Golden Retriever housed by Frank and Ann Davis, received a nomination for the MVMA Award and was runner up to Skipper.

Leader Dogs for the Blind currently has a litter of puppies in raiser homes sired by Skipper and born to Angel. Hopes are always high for our pups – we expect great things from this litter born to the two "top dog" winners.



Carol Ruby Skipper David Smith, DVM

GRAD CORNER



Leader Dogs Retired

"Dreyfuss" – Dorothy Clark
 "Jack" – Treneil Boothe
 "Morgan" – Sherry Brockway
 "Rhea" – Amanda Stine
 "Bailey" – Danielle Fernandez
 "Brady" – Bob Rouse
 "Bailey" – Jewell Boll
 "Riley" – Dolly Davis
 "Travis" – Ron McKellar
 "Will" – Steve Girten
 "Chief" – John Larson
 "Chus" – Francisco Marin
 "Khaki" – Vernon Goodson
 "Harley" – Elaine Mueller
 "Soleil" – Bonnie Ellerhorst
 "Midnight" – Robert Jackson
 "Abby" – Donna Clemens
 "Ned" – Kathleen Lain
 "Reba" – Pedro Fernandez
 "Skylar" – Jose Padilla

Leader Dogs Deceased

"Drake" – Enid Bourne
 "Heika" – Arda Perkins
 "Max" – Vince Llanas
 "Sasha" – Pauline Schartz
 "Brutis" – Phil Rotramel
 "Gabbi" – Victor Faries
 "Bobbie" – Maureen Gagnon
 "Jet" – Eric Jacobson
 "Barron" – David Knapp
 "Sarah" – Rosanne Sawicki
 "Indy" – Mike Rodgers
 "Jacob" – Mark Landry
 "Buster" – Ken Graf
 "Roman" – E.A. Fletcher
 "Riley" – Tony Coin
 "Topaz" – Duncan Holmes
 "Bauer" – Judy Shockley
 "Sebastian" – Steve Bourassa
 "Cody" – Tim Sturm
 "Duke" – Marti Geisenhaver
 "Cody" – Mike Royal
 "Chance" – George Studebaker

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to graduate Pawel Wdowik of Warszawa, Poland who was recently married. Pawel writes he and Leader Dog "Paige" have also done a lot of traveling in the past year, visiting France, Israel, Finland, Bulgaria, and U.S. states such as Illinois, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Colorado and Texas. Wow, that's a lot of travel for one great Leader Dog team. Congratulations Pawel on your marriage. We wish you many happy years together.

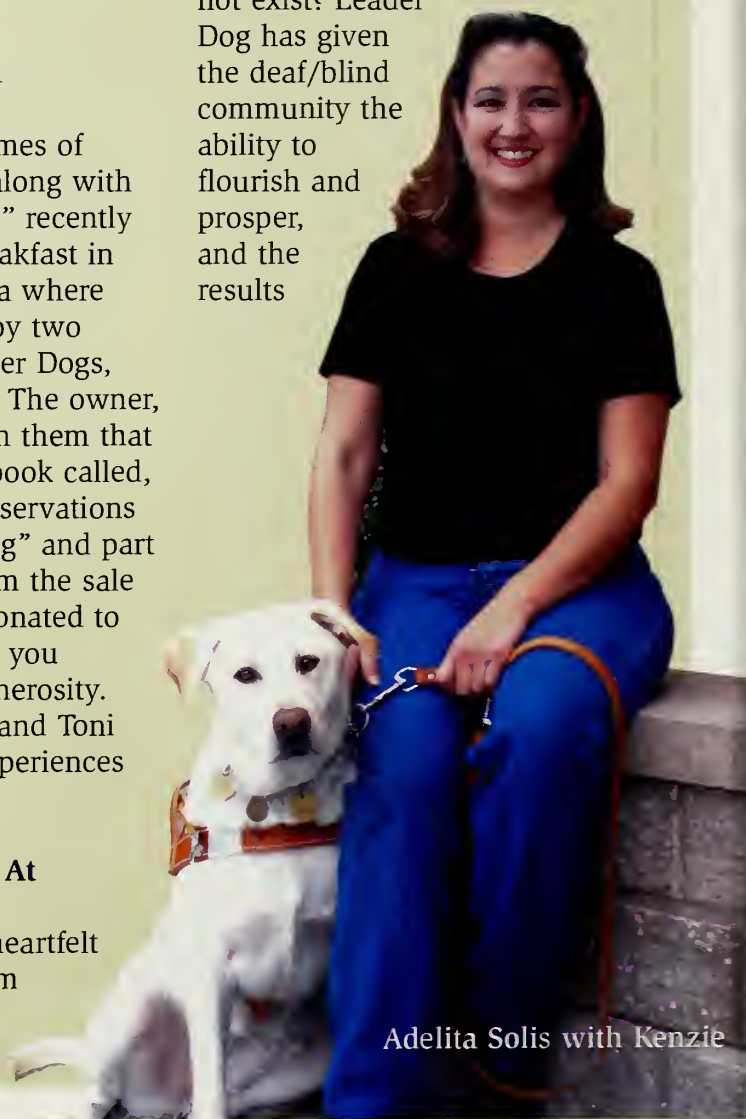
Observations of an Innkeeper Dog

Ed and Toni Eames of Fresno, California along with Leader Dog "Escort" recently visited a Bed & Breakfast in Blacksburg, Virginia where they were greeted by two career change Leader Dogs, Solomon and Kent. The owner, Joanne, shared with them that she had written a book called, "Solomon Says; Observations of an Innkeeper Dog" and part of the proceeds from the sale of each book are donated to Leader Dog. Thank you Joanne for your generosity. And thank you Ed and Toni for sharing your experiences with us.

A 'Second Chance At Happiness'

We received a heartfelt letter of thanks from

graduate Adelita Solis with "Kenzie" of Dallas, Texas who joyously tells us that coming to Leader Dog was the best decision she could have made. She writes; "It is like having a second chance at happiness. Kenzie has given me the ability to reach my goals and stay in the game. I prayed for this freedom to one day do all the things that I once thought were a lost cause. You are a Godsend, and I wish I had gone to Leader Dog sooner. I look back and think, what would I do if Leader Dog did not exist? Leader Dog has given the deaf/blind community the ability to flourish and prosper, and the results



Adelita Solis with Kenzie

are nothing short of a miracle. There is more happiness and joy when I am with my family and friends."

Adelita goes on to praise the Lions Clubs for helping her to reach out and achieve her dream of having a Leader Dog. "Lions Clubs offer so many ways to help put people in touch with the world again. For years the Lions Club has given me the assistance I needed to function again and feel worthy. Leader Dog has changed my life and I could not have done this without the Lions. If words alone could somehow tell you how wonderful you are, they still wouldn't be enough."

Adelita also says; "I hope others will be able to take advantage of your wonderful service to be able to have everything again and to be able to say the most important things in life are not always just out of reach. Not only did you save me from giving up, but you made it possible for me to believe in miracles. Lions Clubs bring out the essence in humanity. With every dream come true, every goal accomplished, you are the reason I live this day full of possibilities and full of hope. You are the Lions of Miracles. You give so much in a special way and you deserve so much credit. I only wish I could give back to you in return. Lions Club will always be a part of me and Kenzie."

Thank you Adelita for your wonderful spirited words. They mean the world to us.

New arrivals & retired breeding stock

Buddy X Sadie Jo	4 Labs
Brock X Kali	8 Labs
Cody X Patsy	10 Flat Coat/Labs
Winston X Greta	8 GSDs
Amigo X Crystal	8 Labs
Manny X Kaycee	9 GSDs
Baxter X Mystery	7 Labs
Myles X Shelby	9 Golden
Blaze X Dixie	7 Labs
Sailor X Mindy	6 Labs
Skipper X Morgan	7 Golden
Rovair X Ivy	7 Labs
Drummer X Sadie	3 Golden
Louie X Emma	5 Labs

Retired Breeding Stock

"Willow" Female GSD – *Vicky Hendley*

"Truman" Male GSD – *Pamla Comstock*

"Shyann" Female Black Lab – *Leann VanderPloeg*

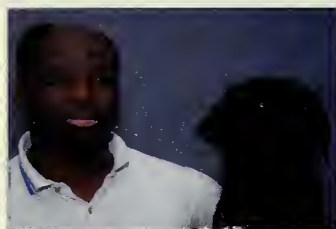
"Magic" Male Yellow Lab – *Ken and Tracey Hamilton*

"Dixie" Female GSD – *Mark and Claranne Ferris*

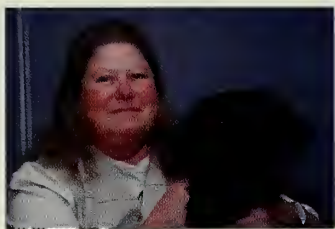


Team 2 – Class 04-05

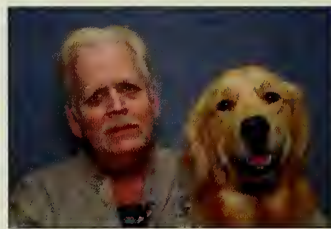
TEAM SUPERVISOR: Phil Griffin – INSTRUCTOR: Rich Guzik – INSTRUCTOR: Wendy Eichler
 APPRENTICE INSTRUCTOR: Matt Jensen – INTERPRETER: Barbara Lebet



Nurudeen Amusa, with Abby
Puppy Raiser: Carol Northcott



Linda Baumeister, with Midnight
Puppy Raiser: Glen Wentland



David Cissell, Sr., with Spartacus
Puppy Raiser: Matt & Colleen Neumann



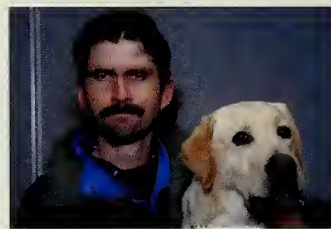
Joseph Davis, with Athena
Puppy Raiser: Susan & Lindsay Bertch



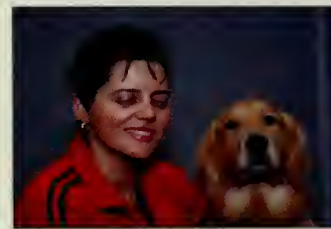
Jose Antonio Medrano De Loizaga,
 with Guia
Puppy Raiser: Janelle & Marci Vore



Alice Fields, with Will



Shawn Fowler, with Pillar
Puppy Raiser: Lynne Davis



Yolanda Asenjo Garcia, with Maggie
Puppy Raiser: David Sarah-Golliher



Victor Harris, with Dolly
Puppy Raiser: Scott & Joyce Ladner



Maria del Carmen Herrero,
 with Vonnie
Puppy Raiser: Lindsey & Sara Kayser



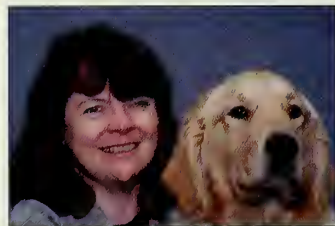
Brian Holcomb, with Daisy



Cristina Sanchez Lopez, with Lizzie
Puppy Raiser: Jean Jones



Julie Dee Marshall, with Mina
Puppy Raiser: Jodie Milske



Leslie Tina Mintz, with Pasha
Puppy Raiser: Jody Robbins



Maria Lourdes Alvalos Moya,
 with Mona
Puppy Raiser: Carol & Andrea Stefanski



Miguel Antonio Escabuas Perez,
 with Cody



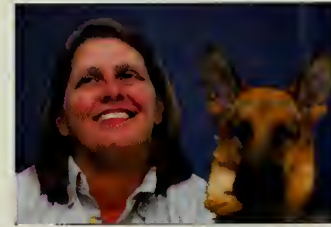
Bryan Propp, with Gallagher
Puppy Raiser: Carolyn Crowe



Susan Smith, with Sampson
Puppy Raiser: Ulrike Cline



Denisse Quintela Sanchez, with Maggie
*Puppy Raiser: North Central
 Correctional Facility*



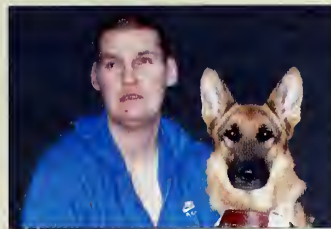
Barbara Snowden, with Zella
Puppy Raiser: Miesque McCandless



Marlyne Tabatt, with Laker
Puppy Raiser: Michelle Cufi



Betty Wellman, with Andrew
Puppy Raiser: June Parmeter



Terry Walker, with Yoko
Puppy Raiser: Sybil Simpson



Team 3 – Class 04-06

TEAM SUPERVISOR: Dayton Johnson – INSTRUCTOR: Dave Heins – INSTRUCTOR: Carrie Pryce
INSTRUCTOR: Sharon Haslam – INTERPRETER: Barbara Le Bret – INTERPRETER: Carlos Rafael



Maria Dolores Hernandez Avero,
with Kittner
Puppy Raiser: Molinda & David Vehlou



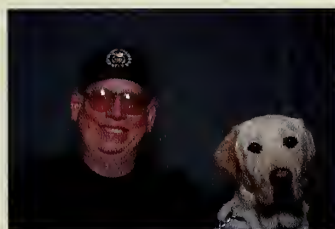
Ellen Jane Bowling, with Anouk
Puppy Raiser: Leanne Cornell



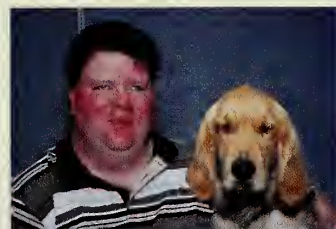
Sherry Brockway, with Josie
Puppy Raiser: Kelly Higgins



Eva Sanchez Caro, with Elliot
Puppy Raiser: Greta Stabler



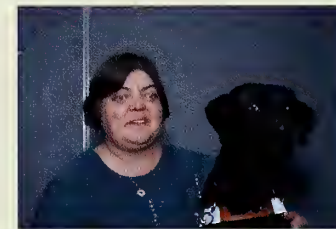
Lewis Wayne Crozier, with Dickens
Puppy Raiser: Mary Guth



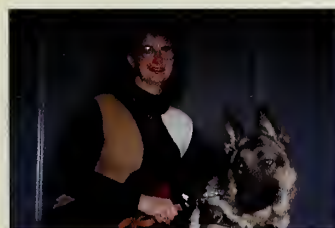
William Delafont, Jr., with Shaq
Puppy Raiser: North Central
Correctional Facility



Paul Delisle, with Laney



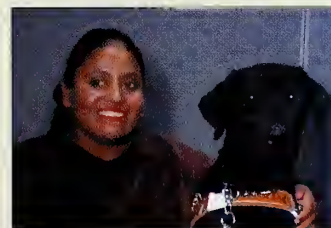
Audrey Ellis, with Harald
Puppy Raiser: Kevin & Michele Anderson



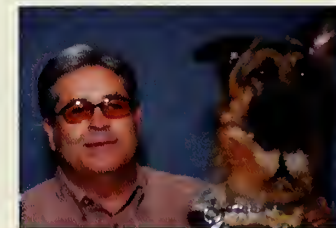
Maria Angeles Espinosa Pradillos,
with Frisco
Puppy Raiser: Lucille Belch



Juan Manuel Serrano Exposito,
with Roy
Puppy Raiser: Lisa Moran



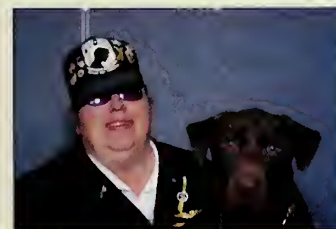
Maria de Jesus Martinez Flores,
with Kasey
Puppy Raiser: Greg & Floreen McKinley



Fernando Thomas Gonzalez Povedano,
with King Ole
Puppy Raiser: Deb Hall



Martha Concepcion Guerrero Orozco,
with Ivy Green
Puppy Raiser: Sandy & Hal Griffin



Marion Harris, with Jag



Maria Felisa Diaz Quintana, with Luz
Puppy Raiser: Mac Friedlander



Ramiro Rafael Selaya Ortega,
with Murphy
Puppy Raiser: Mike & Debbie Fulcher



Jacob Ramos, with Mozart
Puppy Raiser: Marianne & Steve Galligan



Dallan Scherer, with Eddie

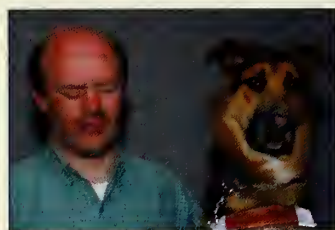


Team 4 – Class 04-07

TEAM SUPERVISOR: Debbie Komondy – INSTRUCTOR: Randy Horn – INSTRUCTOR: Tom Hill
APPRENTICE INSTRUCTOR: Jessica Peardon – APPRENTICE INSTRUCTOR: Jamie Togal – INTERPRETER: Carmen Masaya



Maria Isabel Ambroco Coj, with Ellie
Puppy Raiser: Helen Doolittle



Pedro Fernandez, with Scooter



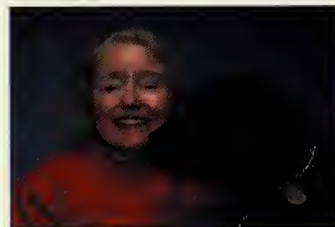
Alice Fields, with Grace
Puppy Raiser: Rebecca Walker



Steven Girtten, with Beau
Puppy Raiser: Darcy Anoshka



Anthony Heckemeyer, with Guido
Puppy Raiser: Jacquelyn Larsen



Noreen Hetznecker, with Molly
Puppy Raiser: Dean & Jody Best



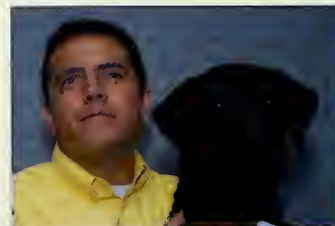
Michael Kluesner, with Chester



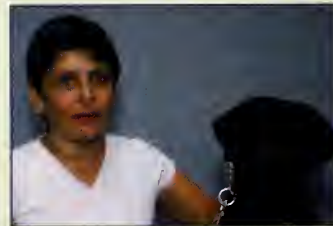
Roman Lara, with Maggie
Puppy Raiser: Denice May



Thomas Lister, with Angus
Puppy Raiser: Linda Scibilia & Laurie Salzler



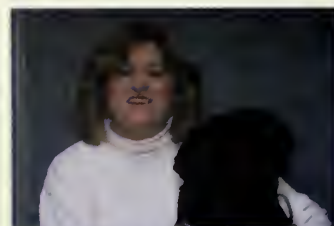
Carlos Enrique Rosalas Ortiz, with Rudy
Puppy Raiser: Kathy Hersman



Lidia Judith Arenales Pineda, with Emma
Puppy Raiser: Ann & Ron Bowman



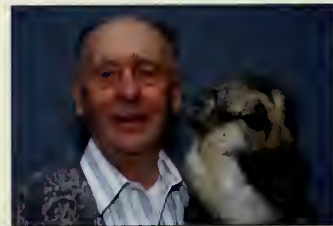
Gloria Mathieson, with Angel



Sharon McCall, with Daisy
Puppy Raiser: Amanda Wrubel



Jose Antonio Villar Padilla, with Vesta
Puppy Raiser: Carole Power & Gary Eddy



Robert Roemmich, with Sonnet



James Springan, with Cooper

INTERNATIONAL ASSESSOR VISITS LEADER DOG



International Assessor Ken Lord joined us February 2-4 to evaluate us for membership in the International Guide Dog Federation.

Founded in 1989, the Federation is comprised of a body of schools who adhere to similar standards, principals and missions. The assessment is repeated every 5 years to note changes, improvements and growth in programs, as well as practices. There are 65 to 70 member schools in the world. Every other year, a forum is held for the members with the objective of

sharing ideas, experiences and programs. The location changes each time and all member schools are invited and encouraged to attend. There is also a yearly publication which many schools submit articles to sharing their latest updates. The Federation is a noteworthy organization whose efforts play a key role in setting standards and in the evolution of dog guide schools worldwide.

Ken Lord visited Leader Dog in the height of Michigan's winter. Quite a change from his home in South Africa, where, it was 80 degrees and sunny when he departed. His welcome here was a blanket of white – something he had seen only five or six times.

Mr. Lord was given the

opportunity to speak to many staff members about their individual positions in the organization as well as their role on the Leader Dog team. He noted that he found the staff professional and committed to the organization and its mission. Although he does not grant the final stamp of approval on continuing our status with the Federation, the decision is based on his findings... all of which, he stated, were very positive.



"Talking Dog" - From the Kolesar Brothers

In D.C. a guy sees a sign in front of a house; "Talking Dog for Sale."

He rings the bell and the owner tells him the dog is in the backyard.

The guy goes into the backyard and sees a black mutt just sitting there.

"You talk?" he asks.

"Sure do," the dog replies.

"So, what's your story?"

The dog looks up and says, "Well, I discovered my gift of talking pretty young and I wanted to help the government,

so I told the CIA about my gift and in no time they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies.

"The jetting around really tired me out and I knew I wasn't getting any younger. Also, I wanted to settle down, so I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security work; mostly wandering near suspicious characters and

listening in. I uncovered some incredible dealings there and was awarded a batch of medals.

"Had a wife, a mess of puppies and now I'm just retired."

The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog.

The owner says, "Ten Dollars."

The guy says, "This dog is amazing. Why on earth are you selling him so cheap?"

The owner says, "Cause he's a liar. He didn't do any of that stuff."

LEADER DOG AMP *Cont.*

Continued from page 1

arguably one of the optimum programs for specializing in Orientation & Mobility. In coordination with their graduate department, Leader Dog facilitates one-on-one, hands-on instruction in the AMP program. WMU students stay on the Leader Dog campus with the staff and students. They work with instructors and on-staff orientation and mobility specialists to educate a class of blind individuals on cane travel. They also glean practical experience regarding how a person's use of a dog guide modifies his or her cane and independent travel skills.

Beth Jurco is a graduate student in WMU's Orientation & Mobility program. As part of her overall preparation in working with blind individuals, it is a great

advantage to have hands-on experience. In Beth's week stay with Leader Dog, she assisted in educating blind students on the basics of O & M while also being the student. The skills she and her colleagues learned from Leader Dog's experienced instructors will aid in her overall working knowledge of a blind individual and the relationship he or she has with his or her dog guide, something many specialists only read about in textbook settings. While on the Leader Dog campus, students from WMU don't read about it, they participate in it.



Although the main focus is dog guide training, Leader Dog is expanding its services to better serve the blind community. AMP lets us begin to reach for this goal. The next steps are living skills and, eventually, vocational training; skills imperative to the independence of the blind community. We are looking forward to the challenges yet to come and proud of those we have succeeded in completing.

Mark Your Calendars For the Leader Dog Golf Outing

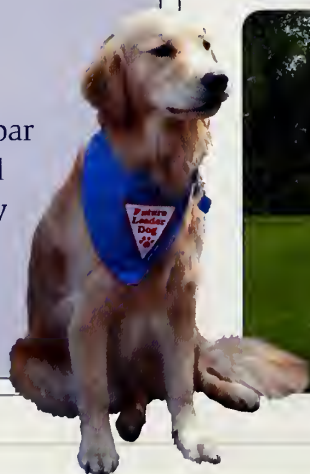
July 12, 2004

Great Oaks Country Club
Rochester, Michigan

Registration begins at 11 a.m.
Shotgun start at 1 p.m.

Buffet luncheon,
sit down dinner and open bar
Hole games, contests and
prizes throughout the day

For more information,
call 888-777-5332

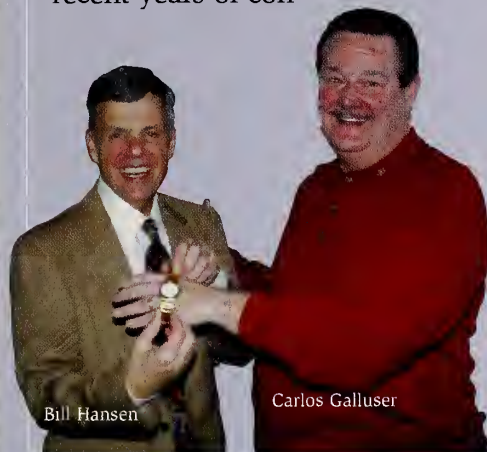


Talk about dedication...

Staff receives 40, 35 and 25 year designations

Leader Dog is happy to share a number of recent staff accomplishments.

Mickey Loeser was presented with his 40-year pin. Mickey has worked in many facets of the organization, from kennel manager to VP of Operations and most recently, Director of Construction Matters. With the recent years of con-



struction on Leader Dog grounds, it is imperative to have a designated staff contact. The construction of phase II is in the works, thus Mickey continues to have his hands full, even with the Polk Center complete.

Larry Heflin celebrated 35 years on staff. Larry too has played many roles at Leader Dog. His current position of team supervisor enables him to pass his considerable knowledge on to the many new faces that have joined Leader Dog over the past few years.

Carlos Galluser is perhaps most recognized as our bilingual instructor. Carlos is fluent in Spanish and takes care of most of our work with ONCE

and other supporting agencies in the Spanish speaking countries. As a field service representative, Carlos travels to Mexico, Spain, and others to follow up with our students from abroad. He was presented with his 25th anniversary watch.

Welcome to a new instructor...

Sharon Haslam may not have accumulated the longevity – yet, however also reached a milestone. She received her certificate of completion. Having finished her apprenticeship, Sharon has earned her wings so to speak and is now a full-fledged instructor.



National City sponsors Kids N' Coins

A BIG thank you to National City Bank for sponsoring our Kids N' Coins program. National City will partner with Leader Dogs for the Blind in promoting our new community service program focused on involving children in the Leader Dog mission.

We are very excited about this opportunity and the generosity that National City is showing by supporting the project. More details will come as the final plans are put into place.

National City®

Welcome International Convention attendees

Tours will be available by appointment during the 2004 Lions Club International Convention and surrounding days. Lions Club members are welcome to call Leader Dog at 248-651-9011 to make a reservation.

No drop in tours will be available.

News from the legislature regarding vision rehab services

Lorraine Lidoff the Director for the National Vision Rehabilitation Cooperative reports a two prong victory for vision rehabilitation services provision: the Medicare prescription drug bill passed by Congress in December 2003 legislates a one year study to produce recommendations by January 1, 2005, for legislative or administrative action “providing for payment for vision rehabilitation services furnished by vision rehabilitation professionals.”

The study also addresses the obstacle which blocked coverage: the lack of state licensure for vision rehabilitation professionals.

Also, two important provisions in the Omnibus Appropriations bill, which Congress passed in January 2004, complement the achievement:

1. The Omnibus bill conference report establishes a 5 year demonstration project, commencing July 1, 2004, to provide national coverage for vision rehabilitation services, which includes services provided by vision rehabilitation professionals.
2. It requires the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop policy recommendations by January 2005 that will allow vision rehabilitation professionals to provide

services in patients' homes and environments.

This means the work performed by vision rehabilitation professionals will have coverage. CMS is directed to spend \$2 million in the coming year to get national coverage of vision rehabilitation services, including those provided in the home by vision rehabilitation professionals under general supervision, “up and running.”

- Meanwhile, CMS will be examining problems and issues that have proven to be stumbling blocks for our profession to date, specifically including; the small number of vision rehabilitation professionals practicing nationwide, which has precluded national licensure.
- The National Vision Rehabilitation Cooperative, AER and ACVREP are named as entities with which CMS must consult while the study is being conducted.
- Once the study is completed, the 5-year demonstration project will continue while we also seek congressional approval to adopt final statutory language to establish these services on a permanent basis after the demonstration.

This has crested a milestone hurdle for the field in several ways. For the first time in history, vision rehabilitation professionals, defined as

orientation and mobility specialists, rehabilitation teachers and low vision therapists, are explicitly named in the Medicare statute. In addition, when taken together, the study and the demonstration project establish vision rehabilitation services provided by vision rehabilitation professionals as valuable for Medicare beneficiaries and provide us with an outstanding opportunity to gain our full goal of permanent Medicare coverage for these services. The entire field of vision rehabilitation needs to strategize and take action now to meet the challenges involved in assuring successful outcomes for these groundbreaking initiatives.

Reprinted with permission from Lorraine Lidoff. Thanks Lorraine!

We encourage you as consumers and supporters of these services to get involved and let your legislators know what you think.



LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND Officers

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND

A non-profit charitable organization

(888) 777-5332

ational Office
O. Box 5000
ochester, Michigan 48308-5000

www.leaderdog.org

ader Dogs for the Blind is a non-profit organization that has been providing independent travel to the blind community through the use of dog guides for 65 years. Since its founding in 1939, Leader Dogs for the Blind has provided independent mobility to nearly 13,000 visually impaired individuals. The services of the school are provided free of charge to the blind persons, although the cost to the school is over 10,000 for each student/dog team.

You can honor a friend, relative or pet through many different giving opportunities.

For more information on Leader Dogs for the Blind call (248) 651-9011, toll-free at (888) 777-5332, or visit online at www.leaderdog.org

Gift Annuities

Benefits when you donate \$10,000 for a gift annuity

AGE	ANNUAL INCOME	TAX DEDUCTION
70	6.5 %	\$3,397
80	8 %	\$4,497
90	11.3 %	\$5,537

* Plus a portion of this is tax-free

Can a gift annuity work for me?

Birthdate: _____ (minimums: age 50/\$1,000 gift)

\$10,000 ☐ \$50,000 ☐ \$100,000

Women, Director of Planning Giving, Leader Dogs for the Blind,
P.O. Box 5000, Rochester, MI 48308-5000

UPD-SP04

GIVING LEVELS

☐ \$1 to \$49

Receipt (within 48 hours of receiving gift) with enclosed contribution envelope.

☐ Charles A. Nutting Circle of Friends \$50 to \$99

Donors at this level receive a white membership card and all the benefits listed on the Donor Giving Club sheet.

☐ S. A. Dodge Circle of Friends • \$100 to \$499

Donors at this level receive a silver membership card and all the benefits listed on the Donor Giving Club sheet.

☐ Donald P. Schurr Circle of Friends • \$500 to \$999

Donors at this level receive a personalized calligraphy certificate suitable for framing, a gold membership card and all the benefits listed on the Donor Giving Club sheet.

☐ President's Circle • Emerald Member • \$1,000 to \$4,999

Donors at this level receive a personalized paperweight, a gold membership card and all the benefits listed on the Donor Giving Club sheet.

☐ Chairman's Circle • Diamond Member • \$5,000 and above

Donors at this level receive a personalized walnut memo holder, a gold membership card and all the benefits listed on the Donor Giving Club sheet.

The Giving Circles are to demonstrate a personal commitment to the continued operations of Leader Dogs, rather than gifts from service organizations or corporations. Contributions toward the Leader Dog Operating Fund help support a variety of projects from student travel, room and board, the veterinary program, operational expenses (overhead), to the

News from the legislature regarding vision rehab services

Lorraine Lidoff the Director for the National Vision Rehabilitation Cooperative reports a two prong victory for vision rehabilitation services provision: the Medicare prescription drug bill passed by Congress in December 2003 legislates a one year study to produce recommendations by January 1, 2005, for legislative or administrative action “providing for payment for vision rehabilitation services furnished by vision rehabilitation professionals.”

The study also addresses the obstacle which blocked coverage: the lack of state licensure for vision rehabilitation professionals.

Also, two important provisions in the Omnibus Appropriations bill, which Congress passed in January 2004, complement the achievement:

1. The Omnibus bill conference report establishes a 5 year demonstration project, commencing July 1, 2004, to provide national coverage for vision rehabilitation services, which includes services provided by vision rehabilitation professionals.
2. It requires the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop policy recommendations by January 2005 that will allow vision rehabilitation professionals to provide

services in patients' homes and environments.

This means the work performed by vision rehabilitation professionals will have coverage. CMS is directed to spend \$2 million in the coming year to get national coverage of vision rehabilitation services, including those provided in the home by vision rehabilitation professionals under general supervision, “up and running.”

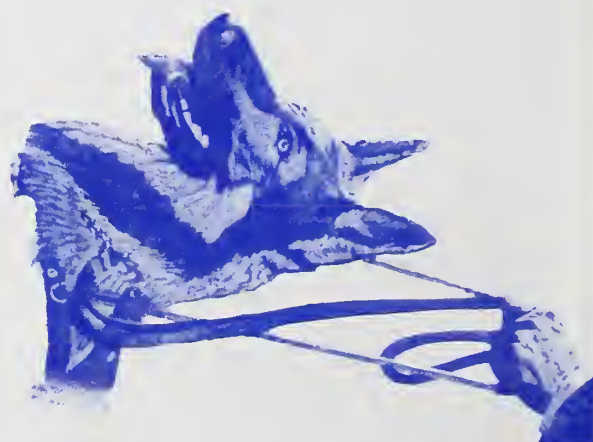
- Meanwhile, CMS will be examining problems and issues that have proven stumbling blocks for our profession to date, specifically including; the small number of vision rehabilitation professionals practicing nationwide, which has precluded national licensure.
- The National Vision Rehabilitation Cooperative (NVRC) and ACVREP are recognized as entities with which CMS must consult while the study is being conducted.
- Once the study is complete the 5-year demonstration project will continue while we also seek congressional approval to adopt final statutory language to establish these services on a permanent basis after the demonstration.

This has crested a milestone hurdle for the field in several ways. For the first time in history, vision rehabilitation professionals, defined as

orientation and mobility

Yes!

I want to help Leader Dogs for the Blind.
I understand that my gift will provide
opportunities to visually impaired people.



LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND *Officers*

Thomas F. McNulty
Chairman of the Board

Lon Grossman
Vice Chairman

William C. Hansen
President & CEO

John M. "Mickey" Loeser
Vice President

Judge Paul Teranes
Secretary

Chuck Schmidt
Treasurer

Judith A. Loeser
*Vice President & Assistant
Secretary/Treasurer*

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND

A non-profit charitable organization

(888) 777-5332

National Office
P.O. Box 5000
Rochester, Michigan 48308-5000

www.leaderdog.org

Leader Dogs for the Blind is a non-profit organization that has been providing independent travel to the blind community through the use of dog guides for 65 years. Since its founding in 1939, Leader Dogs for the Blind has provided independent mobility to nearly 13,000 visually impaired individuals. The services of the school are provided free of charge to the blind persons, although the cost to the school is over \$30,000 for each student/dog team.

You can honor a friend, relative or pet through many different giving opportunities.

For more information on Leader Dogs for the Blind call (248) 651-9011, toll-free at (888) 777-5332, or visit online at www.leaderdog.org

Leader Dog Gift Annuities

- Increase your home income and make a meaningful gift to our dogs and puppies
- Lock in a guaranteed lifetime income
- Save capital gains and income taxes
- Support our canine heroes

Benefits when you donate \$10,000 for a gift annuity

AGE	ANNUAL INCOME	TAX DEDUCTION
70	6.5%	\$3,397
80	8%	\$4,497
90	11.3%	\$5,537

** Plus a portion of this is tax-free*

How would a charitable gift annuity work for me?

My birthdate: _____ My spouse's birthdate: _____ (minimums: age 50/\$1,000 gift)

Sample gift: ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$10,000 ☐ \$25,000 ☐ \$50,000 ☐ \$100,000

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please return completed form to: Steve Riikonen, Director of Planning Giving, Leader Dogs for the Blind,
P.O. Box 5000, Rochester, MI 48308-5000

Leader Dogs for the Blind®

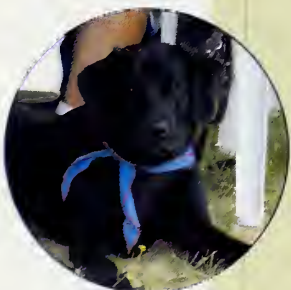
P.O. Box 5000
Rochester, MI 48308-5000
Toll Free (888) 777-5332
Phone (248) 651-9011
www.leaderdog.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Rochester, MI
Permit #104

*****AUTO**3-DIGIT 100
AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND
11 PENN PLZ STE 300
NEW YORK NY 10001-2006



Calendar of Events



March 14th	Class No. 04-09
March 20th	Board of Trustees Meeting/Board Retreat
April 3rd	Indiana Lions for Leader Dog – Trustees Visit
April 11th	Class No. 04-10
April 24th	Breeders Forum
May 9th	Class No. 04-11
May 13th	Finance Committee Meeting
May 20th-22nd	O & M Seminar
May 20th	Executive Board Meeting
June 6th	Class No. 04-12
June 17th-19th	O & M Seminar
June 26th	Puppy Day
July 4th	Class No. 05-01
July 23rd, 24th & 25th	Lions Summer Visit
August 1st	Class No. 05-02
August 13th, 14th & 15th	Lions Summer Visit
August 19th	Finance & Executive Committee Meeting
August 29th	Class No. 05-03
September 16th-18th	O & M Seminar
September 26th	Class No. 05-04
October 2nd	16th Annual Leader Dog Gala
October 7th	Annual Board Meeting
October 8th & 9th	MI & PA Leader Dog Chairman Visit
October 12th	District 11-D-1 & 11-D-2 Open House
October 24th	Class No. 05-05
November 21st	Class No. 05-06
November 21st	12th Annual Lead in the Holidays Gala
December 1st	55th Annual Leader Dog Kick-Off Luncheon
December 8th	Volunteer Luncheon

Leader Dog

UPDATE

WINTER * 2004



AN EXTRAORDINARY STORY

Student, Leader Dog paths destined to cross

Denisse Sanchez knew for many years that she was going to be a dog guide user. Through watching an acquaintance who used a Leader Dog, and her love of animals – especially dogs – she knew this would be the right choice for her independent travel. Her blindness, due to glaucoma, had been an obstacle since a very young age, but not a deterrent to living life. Her family was supportive and helpful. She quickly became proficient in cane travel but was anxious to move forward and receive her dog.

Her application arrived at Leader Dogs for the Blind in 1999. Her qualifications seemed to be met: legally blind, of stable mind and body, basic orientation and mobility skills, able (and eager) to use the dog in the manner for which it was intended. Only one thing was holding her back. Denisse was only fifteen years old. So, she would wait. And wait.



In October of 2003, Denisse arrived at Leader Dogs for the Blind, excited, nervous and very anxious to meet her new partner. She enthusiastically worked with her instructor, Wendy, for the first two days, as is custom for each student. Then came Wednesday, Dog Issue Day. Having waited almost four years for this day, Denisse could hardly contain herself while Wendy left the room to retrieve Maggie off the truck and introduce the two.

Although Denisse's story is a heartwarming one, considering her patient four-year wait, what she didn't know was that Maggie (her soon to be partner) had a special story too.

As a young puppy, Maggie took a long trek to Iowa to be raised by a man in the Iowa State Correctional Facility. As featured previously in the Update, the minimum-security facility is an ongoing participant in the puppy raising program. Maggie, and a small number of her peers, was

Continued on page 3

I N S I D E

2

*Message
from the
president*



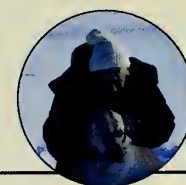
4

*New Polk
Residence
gets rave
reviews*



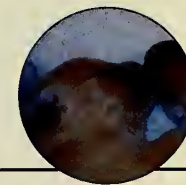
7

*Cold is fun –
if your dog
is properly
winterized!*



8

*Grad Corner,
New Arrivals
& Retired*



12

*From
the eyes
that lead*



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT – *Bill Hansen*

Leader Dog reaches milestones because of you

I am pleased to share with you that Leader Dogs for the Blind has recently reached a very significant milestone – the opening of the Polk Residence and Training Center. It is only through your support and dedication that we have been able to realize this great achievement. Because of you, we are stepping up to the next level in the programs we provide and the impact we make on the people of our communities – across the nation, and the world.

Over the years, the generosity of the Polk Family, thousands of Lions Club members from around the world,

countless individuals, families, foundations and corporations have made the goals of this organization a reality.

Since our founding 64 years ago, Leader Dog has always strived to improve the lives of the blind community at large and our new facility will allow us to provide the most current and effective tools and techniques for educating our students and their Leader Dogs.

The Polk Center recently welcomed its inaugural class and their dog guide partners. As talked about in other

areas of this issue, the Polk Center allows for the expansion of our services to the blind and deaf/blind communities as well as accelerated orientation and mobility training to students. The modifications in the living quarters from the old facility to the new enhance the bonding process between the student and Leader Dog – an essential part of the success of the team.

Continued on page 4



A great place to work! *An instructor's comments on the improvements*

Changes in the new Polk facility have been positive for everyone, including the instructors. Director of Training, Judy Campbell pulled team duty in a recent class. The following are a few of her observations of the many improvements since opening the doors of the Polk Center.

Great attention was given to the design of the facility to allow conveniences for those who have some remaining vision. Hallways are wider, better lit, and colored floor tiles indicate doorways off the hall. All of the signage, from room numbers to instructors' offices are shown in large, raised print and Braille.

Contrasting color was used on all doorways to indicate where they begin and end.

The student rooms offer a number of amenities, creating a "homey" environment. Simulating an experience closer to that of real home life, which encourages ownership and responsibility that assists in the bonding process.

The many improvements include, but are not limited to: refrigerators in each room, multiple places to rest, grooming chairs, cable TV and phones. Sharing a bathroom is no longer a necessity and the extra shelf space is particularly nice. An emergency pull cord is located both by the bed and in

the bath, just in case the need arises. Covered trash cans alleviate wandering noses by the dogs, and deter them from garbage picking, as they are sometimes inclined. Talking clocks allow the students to take advantage of resources and are one more step in allowing them to still function independently, as they will do once they return home.

On this same note, outside access off each room gives the instructor staff the ability to provide a schedule of feed and park times. The class is then expected to follow that schedule.

Continued on page 3

EXTRAORDINARY *cont.*

First Class
Postage
Required

Post Office will
not deliver
without proper
postage.

Leader Dogs for the Blind®

P.O. Box 5000
Rochester, MI 48308-5000



the edge of the bed and
the floor with her new
eyes filled with tears

Weeks later Denisse says
more secure in her
very happy that she has
help her and to share in

When Denisse returns
from, Spain, she and
attend the university
she is studying social work.
and out on her own this

fall, she and Maggie have their work
cut out. However, family is an hour
away by train and she has many
friends close by who are anxious to
meet Maggie and offer assistance
where needed. "The university is
already preparing a special area for
us, so Maggie and I are comfortable
when we are on campus. I am
confident we will do well. She is
great, I feel more secure (traveling)
with her already," said Denisse. "I am
very happy to have her and grateful
she will be helping me, as she has
already helped the man who raised
her by being there for him to give
back to society."

and break area is more
functional, with
nicking a fast food
— allowing additional
space to students, at the
as reinforcing dog
friendly in the snack area,
they take advantage of
the coffee center,
, and ice machine.

The lounge areas are
with everything from
lounge chairs to
tables and high back chairs
for card playing. All
and instructions for
such as remote controls,
(c) are available in large



print and Braille. Some are
brightly lit while others have
a softer glow — as our students
light sensitivity varies.

Last, but not least, are the food
services improvements. Students
will still enjoy the same delicious
meals, however, they can now do
so at larger tables, which provides
more space for the dogs and for the
feast which occupies the tabletops!

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT - *Bill Hansen*

Leader Dog reaches milestones because of you



I am pleased to share with you that Leader Dogs for the Blind has recently reached a very significant milestone - the opening of the Polk Residence and Training Center. It is only through your support and dedication that we have been able to realize this great achievement. Because of you, we are stepping up to the next level in the programs we provide and the impact we make on the people of our communities - across the nation, and the world.

Over the years, the generosity of the Polk Family, thousands of Lions Club members from around the world,

countless individuals, families, foundations and corporations have helped us reach the goals of this organization.

Since our founding 64 years ago, Leader Dog has always strived to improve the lives of the blind community at large and our new facility will allow us to provide the current and effective tools and techniques for educating our students and their Leader Dogs.

The Polk Center recently welcomed its inaugural class and their partners. As talked about

A great place to work!

An instructor's comments on the improvements

Changes in the new Polk facility have been positive for everyone, including the instructors. Director of Training, Judy Campbell pulled team duty in a recent class. The following are a few of her observations of the many improvements since opening the doors of the Polk Center.

Great attention was given to the design of the facility to allow conveniences for those who have some remaining vision. Hallways are wider, better lit, and colored floor tiles indicate doorways off the hall. All of the signage, from room numbers to instructors' offices are shown in large, raised print and Braille.

Contrasting color was used on all doorways to indicate where they begin and end.

The student rooms offer a variety of amenities, creating a more comfortable environment. Simulating a real life experience closer to the home life, which encourages ownership and responsibility. The many improvements are not limited to: restrooms in each room, multiple rest, grooming chairs, cell phones and phones. Sharing a bathroom is no longer a necessity. Extra shelf space is particularly nice. An emergency pull station is located both by the bed

This gift has been given by:

Name _____

Phone () _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Thank you for your support!

Payment Information

☐ Check enclosed (payable to Leader Dogs for the Blind)

Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Card #:

Exp:

Authorized card holder's signature _____

12/03

Your donation is 100% tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Leader Dogs for the Blind is a 501 (c)(3) organization.

EXTRAORDINARY *cont.*

cared for by a specified inmate at the facility. She was exposed to all the same areas of obedience, socialization, and day to day activities as other pups in the program. For the few situations that are difficult to mimic within the facility, employees volunteer to take the pups to their homes for weekends to be sure the dogs are exposed to all environments. Maggie is the first dog raised in the correctional facility to be issued.

Denisse heard Maggie's collar and tags jingle as she entered the room. A smile immediately appeared on Denisse's face. "Maggie!" she exclaimed. She quickly gave up



her post on the edge of the bed and crawled onto the floor with her new friend. Her eyes filled with tears of happiness.

A short two weeks later Denisse says she is already more secure in her travel. She is very happy that she has someone to help her and to share in her journeys. When Denisse returns home to La Coruna, Spain, she and Maggie will attend the university where Denisse is studying social work. Having moved out on her own this

fall, she and Maggie have their work cut out. However, family is an hour away by train and she has many friends close by who are anxious to meet Maggie and offer assistance where needed. "The university is already preparing a special area for us, so Maggie and I are comfortable when we are on campus. I am confident we will do well. She is great, I feel more secure (traveling) with her already," said Denisse. "I am very happy to have her and grateful she will be helping me, as she has already helped the man who raised her by being there for him to give back to society."

A great place *cont.*

These are basic needs the dog will have once they return home. Permitting and encouraging individuals to create the habit of feeding, parking and cleaning up after their dog while they are here, is a reassurance they will continue that essential responsibility once they are home.

Loading and unloading has become friendlier for all with multiple loading areas; fewer stairs, which is most beneficial to those with circulation or joint issues: and there is no more waiting for those in front of you who may be slower travelers when exiting to park, as park is now handled individually.

The snack and break area is more friendly and functional, with booths mimicking a fast food restaurant – allowing additional break space to students, at the same time as reinforcing dog skills. While in the snack area, students may take advantage of an improved coffee center, microwave, and ice machine.

The multiple lounge areas are furnished with everything from overstuffed lounge chairs to round tables and high back chairs – great for card playing. All notebooks and instructions for devices (such as remote controls, phones, etc) are available in large



print and Braille. Some are brightly lit while others have a softer glow – as our students light sensitivity varies.

Last, but never least, are the food services improvements. Students will still enjoy the same delicious meals, however, they can now do so at larger tables, which provides more space for the dogs and for the feast which occupies the tabletops!

LEADER DOG MILESTONE *cont.*

Continued from page 2

I believe the new training center creates a solid foundation for the success of the student and his Leader Dog.

This is thanks to the generosity of you, our supporters.

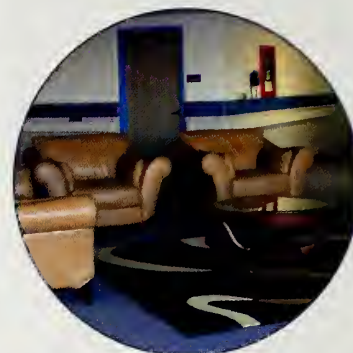
As you know, Leader Dogs for the Blind launched a capital campaign in order to raise money for the building. Most of the funding came from donations, both from the private sector and many from the Lions Club organization. We are extremely grateful for the generosity and support you have provided us in the past and look forward to an even stronger partnership as we look to the future.

These are still challenging times economically, despite signs that the economy may be improving. We continue to fight the same uphill battle due to the insecurity caused by international conflict and its affect on the charitable giving habits of individuals and corporations. As a result, Leader Dogs for the Blind, much like other nonprofits, has been forced to work even harder for the same dollar amounts earned in past years.

Together, we can continue to make a difference. Each year, Leader Dog provides approximately 300 students with dog guides — all completely free of charge. Visually impaired students from around the world — including individuals from as far away as Taiwan, Spain and Chile — receive the school's services. The diverse group lives on campus with specially trained instructors while progressing through the multi-stepped process that will allow them to travel independently upon graduation.

The milestones we've reached provide us with an opportunity to step back, express our appreciation and to renew our determination to continue to move ahead during the coming years.

Together, we have helped nearly 13,000 students successfully graduate from the program with their new Leader Dog. Together, we can celebrate the success that you helped to create. This is no small accomplishment and, in large measure continues, courtesy of the generosity of friends like you.



Welcome International Convention attendees

Tours will be available by appointment during the 2004 Lions Club International Convention, and surrounding days. Lions Club members are welcome to call Leader Dog at 248-651-9011 to make a reservation.

No drop in tours will be available.



RAVE REVIEWS FOR THE POLK CENTER

New Polk Residence and Training Facility

Bill McCleary from Indiana recently made a return trip to Leader Dog and was among the first class in the Polk Residence and Training Center. He received his second dog, Chance, a male black lab as part of class 04-03. Bill and Chance trained together for nearly three weeks before returning to Indianapolis.

"Both experiences at Leader Dog were super," Bill stated. "With my first dog, 10 years ago, I found everyone to be a great help. The staff, the dogs, they are all wonderful. My experience this time has been just as enjoyable. It's like a vacation. I need to concentrate on my dog and me – the other regular responsibilities are all taken care of." The "regular responsibilities" to which Bill refers are that of linen changes, food preparation and the like. The food services staff offers

"three squares" a day – rejuvenating the students and instructors as they work their intense training schedule. The state of the art kitchen in the Polk Center allows the food services staff to move about with plenty of workspace, storage – even separate freezers for alternate food products. The additional space allows the staff to put out a smorgasbord each day for students and staff to enjoy.

**"It's wonderful!
Time for us
(student and leader dog)
to spend together without
anyone distracting us."**

– Betty Kraus, graduate,
speaking of the private rooms.



In addition, our residence staff ensures the cleanliness of the entire facility, as well as polished floors, linen changes and a fully stocked beverage and snack lounge.

Although Betty Klaus did not experience both buildings, having received her first dog, Calli, in class 04-03, she too felt the new facility offered comforts that put her more at ease upon her arrival and throughout her stay at Leader Dog. "My own room, my own bath. It's wonderful!" she said. "It was just me and Calli. Time for us to spend together without anyone distracting us."

Betty is from Spokane, Washington and lost her vision due to retinitis pigmentosa – one of two conditions comprising Usher Syndrome – with which Betty has been diagnosed. The other condition is profound deafness. Thus, she communicates through ASL (American Sign Language) and the assistance of an interpreter.

"I am excited to return home and feel safe when I walk," Betty said. "I won't miss that 'last step' or bump into people, while trying to

Continued on page 14



VET CORNER – Dr. Laura Fisher

Microchipping

an alternative method of dog identification

Dog identification has gone "high tech" with microchipping – the latest method in keeping your dog safe.

The traditional way to identify your pet is with a collar and tag. This is satisfactory for many dog owners. However, dogs can lose collars or they can be easily removed. Another method of identification is the tattoo. While under anesthesia, tattoos are etched on the inside of the dog's thigh or on the ear flap. The area is shaved to make tattoo application easier and less irritating to the skin, but the hair grows back and can obscure the number.

However, at Leader Dog, all dogs are microchipped before they graduate. The graduate then has the option to leave the contact information under Leader Dogs for the Blind or they can have their personal information added.

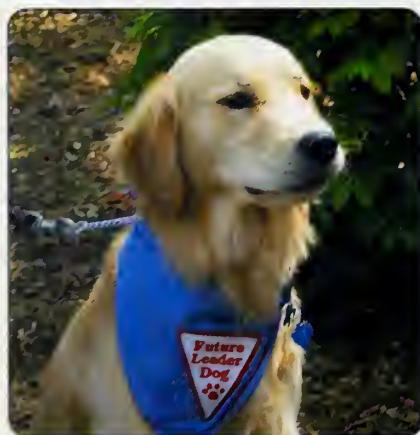
There are several advantages to using microchips, which include:

- it is a permanent identification system
- the implanting process is quick with minimal discomfort
- the chip cannot get lost
- each dog has a unique number
- contact information is available on national databases so a dog can be returned quickly and safely
- contact information can be updated within the database if you move or change phone numbers (the chip does not have to be touched)
- it dramatically increases the chance of finding lost dogs

Microchipping is a permanent way to identify your dog. A microchip is a very small electronic computer chip encoded with a unique number. The chip is just slightly larger than a grain of rice and it is inserted (by injection) under the

skin between the shoulder blades. Once inserted, the chip is not visible and its number cannot be altered. The chips are designed to remain just under the skin. The identifying number is read by passing a scanner over the animal's back and the number is displayed on the scanner's LCD. The electronic code corresponds to designated contact information within a database. The contact information can be accessed by making a phone call to the animal registry, and the dog can be returned to its owner.

Most chips are automatically registered to the shelter or animal hospital that implanted the chip. This means the shelter or hospital will be contacted first, and they, in turn, contact you. You have the option to register your information personally with HomeAgain or AVID, the two existing database organizations.



WARNING REGARDING RAISINS & GRAPES:

The last Update included a recipe with raisins in it. There is recent and ongoing information regarding potential toxicity of raisins or grapes in some dogs. The toxicity is inconsistent and no safe level can be easily determined. In light of this, we do not encourage the feeding of these food products in any of our dogs or puppies. Signs of toxicity usually include vomiting. Prompt veterinary care is important.



BRRR... TIPS FOR WINTERIZING YOUR PETS

For walking or playing outdoors:

Make sure to remove snow clumps from between pads and toes. The most vulnerable areas on a dog are the paws and ears. It is very important to keep these areas free of debris, such as snowballs.

Avoid extended exposure to the elements. There is not a set temperature or weather condition in which you should not take a pet out. A good rule of thumb to follow is if it is too cold for you, it is too cold for them.

Walking or playing outside for 30 minutes or so is not a bad thing as long as proper care is taken with the pet once you return indoors.

Watch for broken ice, it can cut dog pads.

Be aware of substances used to de-ice, or roughen slippery surfaces. Salt is most commonly used and is the most harmful to our animals. As it melts snow, it gets caught up in paws, moistening them and creating a vulnerable surface. You could equate it with wetting down your bare feet, then walking around in the snow and slush for an extended period of time. The longer you are walking through the muck, the worse the stinging will be. It is important to store your de-icing

products in a pet safe area. Ingestion of salt, calcium chloride, kitty litter, sand, etc. can be very harmful to your animals.

It is also important to take care when storing winter car care materials, as these can appear interesting and attractive to an animal. Antifreeze, for example, is toxic and can be fatal if ingested.

Suspected exposure:

If a dog is bothering his paws or favoring them and you suspect frostbite or over exposure to the elements, it is important to get the dog indoors and seek veterinary care immediately.

An animal may experience vomiting, diarrhea, or lethargic behavior if he has ingested toxic substances. Attempt to determine what the animal may have eaten and seek emergency veterinary attention.

For outside pets - It is never our recommendation to house animals outside for an elongated period of time. However, if it is unavoidable, take the necessary precautions to properly prepare the area.

Be sure to keep them in a sheltered area out of wet conditions. Provide a doghouse that is large enough for them to stand and turn around. A house this size will allow them to stay dry and warm due to the output of their own body heat. A house too big will not provide the same

warmth as too much room allows the heat to escape. Line the house with hay or a similar substance rather than blankets or towels as when they get wet, they retain the moisture and will negate being a warm, insulating surface.

Acclimate them to the environment slowly, if possible, a few hours at a time, increasing the length of time as you go so they are not shocked by the outside conditions.

Avoid metal pans for water. The metal element causes the water to freeze faster than a plastic container would. It is recommended that the water be changed frequently to avoid freezing or supply heated water buckets to prevent the problem.

Although a garage provides a reasonable amount of shelter from wind and snow, it does not provide any warmth. If a pet is going to maintain residence in the garage, make sure there is a carpet or blanket for the animal to lay on to buffer the cold of the cement floor.



GRAD CORNER – Kathy Stauffer**Leader Dogs Retired**

"Buffy" – Melanie Robinson
 "Maya" – Anajane Gray
 "Puff" – Angela Gibson
 "Crunch" – Joe Hulka
 "Bobby Jo" – Dorothy Latimer
 "Cooper" – Scott Sowers
 "Max" – Mike Benson
 "Charger" – Rhonda Clark
 "Rocco" – Uri Cohen
 "Cadbury" – Marion Harris
 "Champ" – Leroy Lovell
 "Ivy" – Marie Salvadore
 "Abe" – Mike Triplett
 "Gyro" – Sherry Suggs
 "Spot" – Edgar Stark
 "Bear" – Mary Ellen McDonald
 "Billy" – Paul McDonald
 "Roxy" – Diane Bergeron
 "Beevis" – Lloyd Schmitz
 "Seamus" – Lee Southwell
 "Toby" – Judith St. Clair
 "Mona" – Duncan Callum
 "Mackie" – Brenda Aguilar
 "Barky" – William McCleary
 "Shadow" – Charles Banfield
 "Drake" – Craig Hall
 "Dwight" – Lewis Crozier
 "Ginger" – Maria Dircio
 "Maggie" – Maria Duran
 "King" – Enrique Magallanes
 "Socco" – Sandra Mathena
 "Bear" – Jaime Porcallo
 "Jesse" – Bob Rosene
 "Marlee" – Teresa Serrano
 "Rio" – Valerie Peterson

Leader Dogs Deceased

"Buddy" – Sue Lockwood
 "Gypsy" – Silvia Guevara
 "Trevor" – Suzanne Hill
 "Friskie" – Dean Schoen
 "Rudy" – Jennifer Tatomir
 "Dulcie" – Brenda Waller

"William" – Mary Renz
 "Sunday" – Johanna Watts
 "Bud" – William Bell
 "Sidekick" – Jesse Aites
 "Marley" – Pat Baird
 "Taylor" – Sharon Knight
 "Sport" – Ken Herppich
 "Shadow" – Ralph Karstetter
 "Beau" – Ron Bussen
 "Bear" – Scott Berry
 "Cassidy" – Jose Suarez
 "Josh" – Becky Ramey
 "Koki" – Jan Hixon
 "Elsa" – Marvin Rochelle
 "Kody" – Mark Stafford
 "Auge" – Senia Talley
 "Leo" – Noreen Hetznecker
 "Goldie" – Barb Wolbers
 "Connor" – Jane Bowling
 "Sam" – Cathy Coon
 "Banjo" – Rick Shaffer
 "Bailey" – Russell Murray
 "Abbey" – Verda Jones
 "Marshall" – Mike Lisak
 "Don" – Russ Figi

Wedding Bells

Graduates George Godwin and Rebecca Evou exchanged vows on August 2nd. They are now making their home in Jackson, Michigan along with their dogs "Sabre" and "Honey." Congratulations and best wishes to George and Rebecca. We wish you many, many happy years together.

Educational Kudos

Graduate Nancy Pershing, with "She Bear," has graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with her Masters Degree in Education. When "She Bear" walked Nancy down the walkway to receive her



degree, they received the loudest applause of the day, which blew Nancy away.

Nancy is now poised and ready to go out there and find her perfect job, teaching life skills to adolescents with disabilities. Her dream is to become a role model for others with disabilities to succeed. Congratulations Nancy and "She Bear." We are very proud of you and wish you all the best.

Purina Dog Food Coupons

Purina Dog Food Company is again offering Dog Food Coupons to Service Animal Owners. Coupons are good for \$2.00 off any size bag of Purina Dog Food. To receive your coupons, call Purina's Toll Free Phone Number: 800-776-7526. You can request two coupons every six weeks, and they will be sent directly to your home.

In the last Update, a recipe was printed for Liver Brownie Treats. Those should be baked in a 350-degree oven and MINUS the raisins. Sorry for that omission.

Rainbow Bridge

Copies of "RAINBOW BRIDGE" are always available. Call Kathy or Tracy to request your copy. We also have "A GLIMPSE OF RAINBOW BRIDGE" which is a follow up to the original poem.

NEW ARRIVALS & RETIRED BREEDING STOCK

Trax X Badger	2 GSD
Greta X Sully	2 GSD
Leo X Sweet	7 Golden/Lab
Sully X Ramsi	2 GSD
Rovair X Compass	7 Labs
Olaf X Molly	5 Labs
Buck X Patsy	7 Labs
Truman X Dixie	9 GSD
Quincy X Morgan	3 Goldens
Olaf X Daisy	7 Labs
Hunter X Heidi	13 Goldens
Leo X Whitney	8 Labs
Rovair X Princess	6 Labs
Rovair X Maggie	7 Labs
Sailor X Tilly	11 Labs
Trax X Freida	8 GSD
Slick X Daize	11 Flat Coat/Lab
Kody X Zoe	6 Labs
Skipper X Angel	8 Goldens
Kody X Faith	9 Labs
Sailor X Maggie	3 Labs
Lewis X Aurora	1 Labs
Wilson X Moxie	3 Labs
Sailor X Rooney	6 Labs
Brock X Nutmeg	7 Labs
Drummer X Sweet	9 Goldens
Bobby X Carrie	8 Flat Coat/Lab
Bobby X Donna	10 Flat Coat/Lab
Wilson X Whistler	8 Goldens
Gunther X Destiny	5 Golden/Lab

Retired Breeding Stock

"Faith" Female Yellow Lab -
Renee Czaplicki
 "Daisy" Female Yellow Lab -
Josie Witulski
 "Ramsi" Female GSD -
Angie Filiczkowski
 "Buck" Male Yellow Lab -
Joe and Lois Esuchanko
 "Capone" Male GSD - *Robert Ebersole*
 "Kayla" Female GSD -
Rebecca Marschner
 "Elkie" Female GSD - *Barb Oprea*
 "Liesel" Female GSD -
Dale and JoAnne McDonald
 "Jasmine" Female GSD -
Steve and Anne Gooch





Class No. 04-02

Team Supervisor Debbie Komondy
Diane Bergeron with Polar
Marie Salvadore with Cooper
Vickie Welbaum with Freedom
Wayne Scace with Patriot
Virgene Becker with Dori
Rhonda Clark with Daisy



Class No. 04-02

Instructor Randy Horn
Karrie Jo Prater with Burke
Bryan Propp with Guito
Phyllis Collett with Ella
Connie Arrowsmith with Liberty
Bonnie Yankovich with Josie
Betty Maass with Chance



Class No. 04-02

Instructor Tom Hill
Uri Cohen with Meryt
Joseph Hegarty with Bear Jordan
Darcy Ashbay with Holly
Donna Schatzau with Nugget
Mary Velten with Thunder
Roxanne Hensley



Class No. 04-02

Apprentice Instructor Jessica Peardon
Joseph Benson with Rigor
Marion Harris with Sinbad
Leory Lovell with Nadia
Loran Richardson with Angus

Apprentice Instructor
Chris Reichmann
Marvin Rochelle with Katie
Frederick Matta with Marty
Duncan Callum with Moses
Brenda Aguilar with Keystone
Judy St. Clair with Dandy
Team Supervisor Art Fleming



Class No. 04-03

Lee Southwell
with Coby
William McCleary
with Chance
Adelita Solis
with Mackenzie
Lloyd Schmitz
with Zane
Instructor Keith
McGregor



Class No. 04-03



Class No. 04-03

Instructor
Sue Horn
Jan Hixon
with Quest
Nancy Graham
with Bruga
Senia Talley
with Maddie
Vilma Anderson
with Jerry



Class No. 04-03

Apprentice Deaf/Blind Instructor
Michelle Tocco
Carlos Nahue with Kyla
Betty Klaus with Callie

Apprentice Instructor
Deanne Miller
William Bowers with Mitchell
Marty Miller with Beamer
Carolyn Witcher with Dora
Annie Ramos with Maya



Class No. 04-03



Class No. 04-04

Team Supervisor Larry Heflin
Interpreter Ixchel Castillo
Enrique Ulloa Magallanes with Walker
Maria Cristina Lagunas Diricio
with Keyma
Saulo De Jesus Torres with Paige
Maria Auxiliadora Moroyoqui
with Rueger
Teresa Serrano with Argyle
Jaime Fernando Porcallo with Hero
Apprentice Instructor Beth Sollose



Class No. 04-03

Interpreter William Chen
Yu Lin with Polo
Yueh-Hui Huang with Misty
Team Supervisor Art Fleming

Instructor Judy Campbell
Mary Vest with Lilly
Barbara Wolbers with Roulette
Anajane Gray with Omni
Anne Gertiser with Dinah
Cynthia Bass with Jasmine
Becky Ramey with Solei



Class No. 04-04

Mary Renz
with Molly
William McDermott
Steven Speidel
with Cooper
Robert Rosene
with Libby
General Weeks
with Brady
Sandra Mathena
with Gretchen
Instructor Linda Fisher



Class No. 04-04



Class No. 04-04

Apprentice
Instructor
Brad McKenna
Tammie McCrory
with Reagan
John George
with Brad
Jacques Dufour
with Sheila
Lewis Crozier
with Coleman

FROM THE EYES THAT LEAD... *a canine perspective*



Authored by Team 4:

Debbie Komondy, Randy Horn,
Tom Hill, Jessica Peardon

Good morning humans. What a beautiful day. My name is Juno, and I am the dog that was appointed to enlighten you with the events that take place during a typical day of training.

Every morning I arise when I hear the door to our bay open and one of the dogcare staff turns on the lights. I remain quiet while I wait for this individual to let me out into a big run to exercise and take care of business. However, some of my friends hope they will be let out first so they begin to bark to try to draw attention.

Seven to eight of us are put out together, but there are approximately 32 dogs in our bay. While we play together, the dogcare staff cleans our cages and watches us to ensure that we behave ourselves. Yes, sometimes we too wake up on the wrong side of our bed, and you may hear a sharp bark here or there that signals we want another dog to leave us alone. After we have had a sufficient amount of time out in the run, we are brought back into our kennels and



we relax with our nylabones while we wait for our instructor to arrive. They seem to travel in a pack, so when one enters the room you see at least three more following.

In the morning, they administer our medication before taking us out. Not all of us are on medication, but, for example, I have chewed the hair on my tail, so now they spray it with some horrible tasting stuff (I know because I tried to chew it again, only to realize what kind of mistake I was making). I wish I could say I'm easy to medicate, but I am so happy to see my instructor that my tail is flapping from side to side so it takes a minute or two of telling me to "stay" before I calm down enough so they can complete their task.

After the medications are completed, there will be three options for each dog. One: the instructor may decide to take you out in the morning. Two: You may get placed out in the run with a kennel mate so you can play together with Kong toys and balls. Three: You may have to wait in your cage with the knowledge that you will go out in the afternoon to work.

Today, I have been selected to go with my instructor in the morning. My instructor's leash is now attached to my collar and

we're headed down the hall. I used to be impatient to get to the truck, but my instructor didn't like being dragged so I was told "steady," then when I didn't comply, it was reinforced with a "no, steady" and a leash correction. I try to walk in the heel position now, because that seems to make my instructor happy, and I love to please my instructor.

I get placed on the truck and attached to a tiedown, and then my instructor brings a couple more dogs aboard. Meanwhile, the other instructors are placing more dogs from their sections on the truck, and I try to lick them, play with them as they go by. Oops, I was just told "no," I suppose I'll just lay down and relax. Ok, it looks like everyone's here, the doors are closed and I feel us moving.

There is a big black lab that is using me as his pillow. My instructor is looking at us and pointing with a smile so I guess I won't tell him to get off me just yet. Now we are parking in a garage, it appears as if we are in downtown Rochester this morning. Our truck comes to a stop and the doors open up, I try to be patient because I know it takes them a few minutes to clean inside the building before they will take us out.

Ok, they're coming back, my instructor has the leash in hand. I'm trying not to bounce like the others, but I am so excited. "Sit" commands my instructor, but one of the others sits before I do so I watch as he gets to go out first. They are off the truck now and headed to the door, maybe I'll bark and my instructor will decide to take me out instead. Look he's coming back, but he doesn't look very happy. "Quiet," he commands. I guess it would be best to lay down and wait for my turn.

Awhile later my instructor comes back, grooms me, and takes me out. As we walk down the sidewalk, I see the dogs behind the fences, but I ignore them now because my instructor has taught me the importance of straight-line travel. I stop at the edge of the curb, but my instructor tries to keep walking. What is he trying to do, get himself killed! I plant my feet firmly and refuse to budge. He praises me and pats my head. At least one of us knows what we're doing! We get back to the building 30-40 minutes later and he places me back on the truck, but not before he pats my head and gives me a tiny cookie. When all the instructors and other dogs return, we head back to the kennels. I can't wait to get back, because then it's feed time. The instructors insist that we sit before they give us our food. After this is accomplished they head off to check their e-mail while we eat. As soon as they get back, they let us out to run together again, and

they take any of us who may not be feeling very well down to the veterinarian's clinic. Once all this is completed, the instructors place us back in our cages so they can eat their own lunch.

Since I went out this morning I will be staying back this afternoon, but I'll describe what occurs very briefly. The afternoon is very similar to the morning except the instructors take us to bigger cities like Birmingham, Royal Oak, and Detroit. We are taught how to stop at different intersections, how to ride escalators, elevators, and even the People Mover. Occasionally, we are taken into colleges or stores,

and worked up and down several flights of stairs. We learn how to navigate in heavy crowds, and even around lots of children. We go over obedience routines in various locations, and sometimes around lots of distractions. The day is over when we return to the school in the afternoon and we are let out to exercise once more, medicated, then placed back in our cages. We receive biscuits and then we say goodnight to our instructors.

It has been a long day and I have to get my rest so I can be ready for the challenges we will face tomorrow, so I say goodnight to you.



RAVE REVIEWS *cont.*

use the little remaining vision I have to get around. I can be safe and move at a comfortable, faster pace. Calli and I are close and I am comfortable with her."

So much of the success of a student/dog team depends on the bonding and connection made between the two. The faster a bond grows, the more enjoyable the experience here and the smoother the transition at home. Bill and Betty are just two examples of that theory. Beginning with the basic change to private rooms, the bonding process has the potential to accelerate during their time on the Leader Dog campus.

In comparison to the dormitory of the past, the Polk Center is state of the art. Everywhere you look there is a comprehensive change: from paint color chosen to assist those with low vision to talking clocks. All changes

were thought and rethought to enhance our program and what we offer to those staying with us while training with a leader dog.

One student who had experienced both sides of the fence commented that although the old facility may have looked spartan and cold (to those who never stayed there), it had housed many thousands of people and promoted independence. It was a safe harbor and had served Leader Dog and its inhabitants well. He was happy it was not being discarded. He thought a facelift was just what the building deserved after retirement from housing so many. We tend to agree, and look forward to her rebirth as the Administration Building.

With the completion of the Polk Center, additional programs such as AMP (Accelerated Mobility Program) can now flourish to their



full potential. Although it has been launched for a year, it was offered on a limited basis. The new residence now provides the opportunity to increase our services through this program and reach an additional 100 or so individuals each year with orientation and mobility services. Thus, we can create a one-stop center for the visually impaired community. We are anxious to begin working on partnerships with surrounding corporations to eventually bring job skills/vocational training to the campus as part of the curriculum at Leader Dogs for the Blind.

Imagining these possibilities and all the hope that comes with them is exciting to the staff, board, volunteers, and especially the blind community for which we are so eager to work with and assist to improve mobility, life skills and independence.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW LOOK!



Welcome to our new look! In an effort to offer exceptional services and increase our resources, we have redesigned our Update to bring you highlights on the cover to each intriguing article on the inside. In addition, we are working on ensuring that each edition is posted on our website in a readable format to all. Also, we are in the process of making it available via email. If you are interested in the latter, please email Erin Dunn at edunn@leaderdog.org.

Enjoy our new look and for those grads and puppy raisers with great stories and pictures, don't forget to send them our way (attention to Erin Dunn) for possible inclusion in future Updates.

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND

Officers

- ☐ **\$1 to \$49**
Receipt (within 48 hours of receiving gift) with enclosed contribution envelope.
- ☐ **Charles A. Nutting Circle of Friends \$50 to \$99**
Donors at this level receive a white membership card and all the benefits listed on the Donor Giving Club sheet.
- ☐ **S. A. Dodge Circle of Friends • \$100 to \$499**
Donors at this level receive a silver membership card and all the benefits listed on the Donor Giving Club sheet.

GIVING LEVELS

- ☐ **Donald P. Schurr Circle of Friends • \$500 to \$999**
Donors at this level receive a personalized calligraphy certificate suitable for framing, a gold membership card and all the benefits listed on the Donor Giving Club sheet.
- ☐ **President's Circle • Emerald Member • \$1,000 to \$4,999**
Donors at this level receive a personalized paperweight, a gold membership card and all the benefits listed on the Donor Giving Club sheet.
- ☐ **Chairman's Circle • Diamond Member • \$5,000 and above**
Donors at this level receive a personalized walnut memo holder, a gold membership card and all the benefits listed on the Donor Giving Club sheet.

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND

A non-profit charitable organization

(888) 777-5332

National Office
P.O. Box 5000
Rochester, Michigan 48308-5000

www.leaderdog.org

Leader Dogs for the Blind is a non-profit organization that has been providing independent travel to the blind community through the use of dog guides for 64 years. Since its founding in 1939, Leader Dogs for the Blind has provided independent mobility to nearly 13,000 visually impaired individuals. The services of the school are provided free of charge to the blind persons, although the cost to the school is nearly \$10,000 for each student/dog team.

You can honor a friend, relative or pet through many different giving opportunities.

For more information on Leader Dogs for the Blind call (248) 651-9011, toll-free at (888) 777-5332, or visit online at www.leaderdog.org

g Gift Annuities

Benefits when you donate \$10,000 for a gift annuity

AGE	ANNUAL INCOME	TAX DEDUCTION
70	\$650	\$3397
80	\$800	\$4497
90	\$1130	\$5537

* Plus a portion of this is tax-free

itable gift annuity work for me?

Birthdate: _____ (minimums: age 50/\$10,000 gift)

☐ \$50,000

☐ \$100,000

Please return completed form to: Steve Riikonen, Director of Planning Giving Leader Dogs for the Blind,
P.O. Box 5000, Rochester, MI 48308-5000

RAVE REVIEWS *cont.*

use the little remaining vision I have to get around. I can be safe and move at a comfortable, faster pace. Calli and I are close and I am comfortable with her."

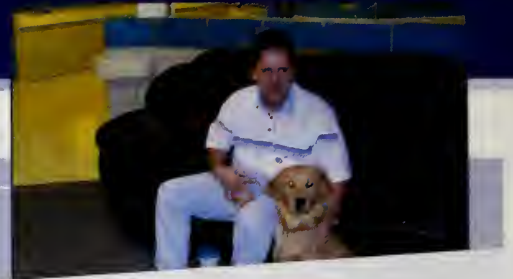
So much of the success of a student/dog team depends on the bonding and connection made between the two. The faster a bond grows, the more enjoyable the experience here and the smoother the transition at home. Bill and Betty are just two examples of that theory. Beginning with the basic change to private rooms, the bonding process has the potential to accelerate during their time on the Leader Dog campus.

In comparison to the dormitory of the past, the Polk Center is state of the art. Everywhere you look there is a comprehensive change: from paint color chosen to assist those with low vision to talking clocks. All changes

were thought and rethought to enhance our program and what we offer to those staying with us training with a leader dog.

One student who had experienced both sides of the fence commented that although the old facility had looked spartan and cold to those who never stayed there, it had housed many thousands of people and promoted independence. It was a safe harbor and had been the Leader Dog and its inhabitant. He was happy it was not being discarded. He thought a facility was just what the building department needed after retirement from housing many. We tend to agree, and we look forward to her rebirth as the Administration Building.

With the completion of the Polk Center, additional programs such as AMP (Accelerated Mobility Program) can now flourish to



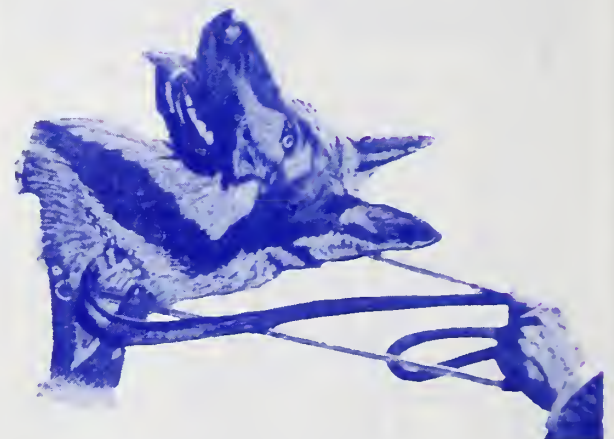
Yes!
I want to help Leader Dogs for the Blind.
I understand that my gift will provide opportunities to visually impaired people.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW LOOK!



Welcome to our new look! We have reimagined the magazine on the web. In addition to the print edition, we now have a digital edition available online. Please visit our website at www.leaderdog.org for more information.

Enjoy our new look! We have reimagined the magazine on the web. In addition to the print edition, we now have a digital edition available online. Please visit our website at www.leaderdog.org for more information.



LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND*Officers*

Thomas F. McNulty
Chairman of the Board

Lon Grossman
Vice Chairman

William C. Hansen
President & CEO

John M. "Mickey" Loeser
Vice President

Judge Paul Teranes
Secretary

Chuck Schmidt
Treasurer

Judith A. Loeser
Vice President & Assistant
Secretary/Treasurer

LEADER DOGS FOR THE BLIND*A non-profit charitable organization*

(888) 777-5332

National Office
P.O. Box 5000
Rochester, Michigan 48308-5000

www.leaderdog.org

Leader Dogs for the Blind is a non-profit organization that has been providing independent travel to the blind community through the use of dog guides for 64 years. Since its founding in 1939, Leader Dogs for the Blind has provided independent mobility to nearly 13,000 visually impaired individuals. The services of the school are provided free of charge to the blind persons, although the cost to the school is nearly \$30,000 for each student/dog team.

You can honor a friend, relative or pet through many different giving opportunities.

For more information on Leader Dogs for the Blind call (248) 651-9011, toll-free at (888) 777-5332, or visit online at www.leaderdog.org

Leader Dog Gift Annuities

- Increase your home income and make a meaningful gift to our dogs and puppies
- Lock in a guaranteed lifetime income
- Save capital gains and income taxes
- Support our canine heroes

Benefits when you donate \$10,000 for a gift annuity

AGE	ANNUAL INCOME	TAX DEDUCTION
70	\$650	\$3397
80	\$800	\$4497
90	\$1130	\$5537

* Plus a portion of this is tax-free

How would a charitable gift annuity work for me?

My birthdate: _____ My spouse's birthdate: _____ (minimums: age 50/\$10,000 gift)

Sample gift: ☐ \$10,000 ☐ \$25,000 ☐ \$50,000 ☐ \$100,000

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

Please return completed form to: Steve Riikonen, Director of Planning Giving Leader Dogs for the Blind,
P.O. Box 5000, Rochester, MI 48308-5000

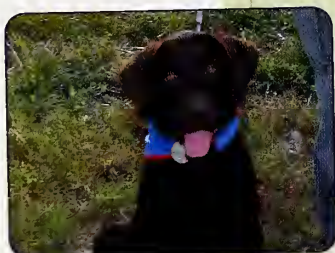
Leader Dogs for the Blind®

P.O. Box 5000
Rochester, MI 48308-5000
Toll Free (888) 777-5332
Phone (248) 651-9011
www.leaderdog.org

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Rochester, MI
Permit No. 104

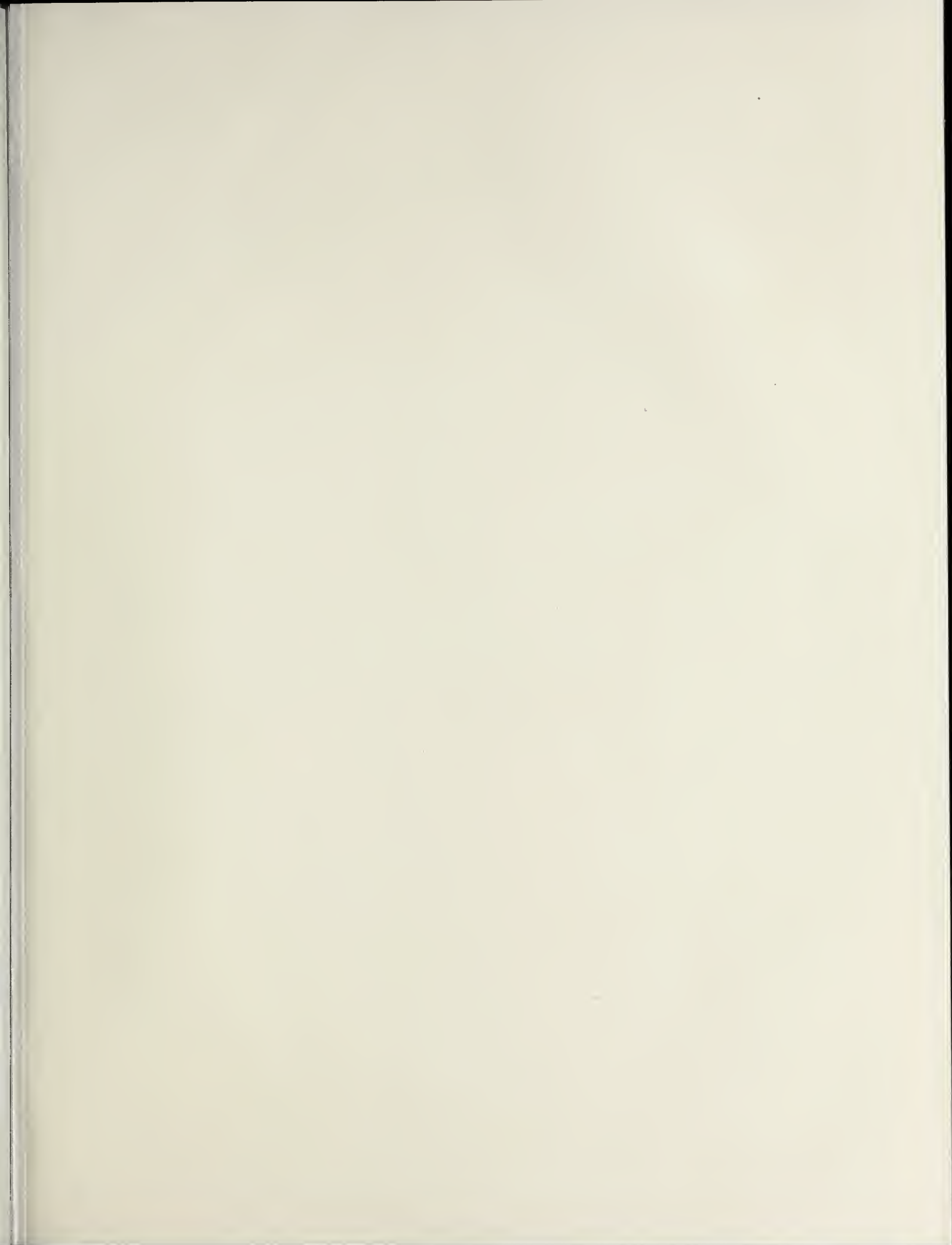
*****AUTO**3-DIGIT 100
AMERICAN FOUNDATION FOR THE BLIND
11 PENN PLZ STE 300
NEW YORK NY 10001-2006
|||||

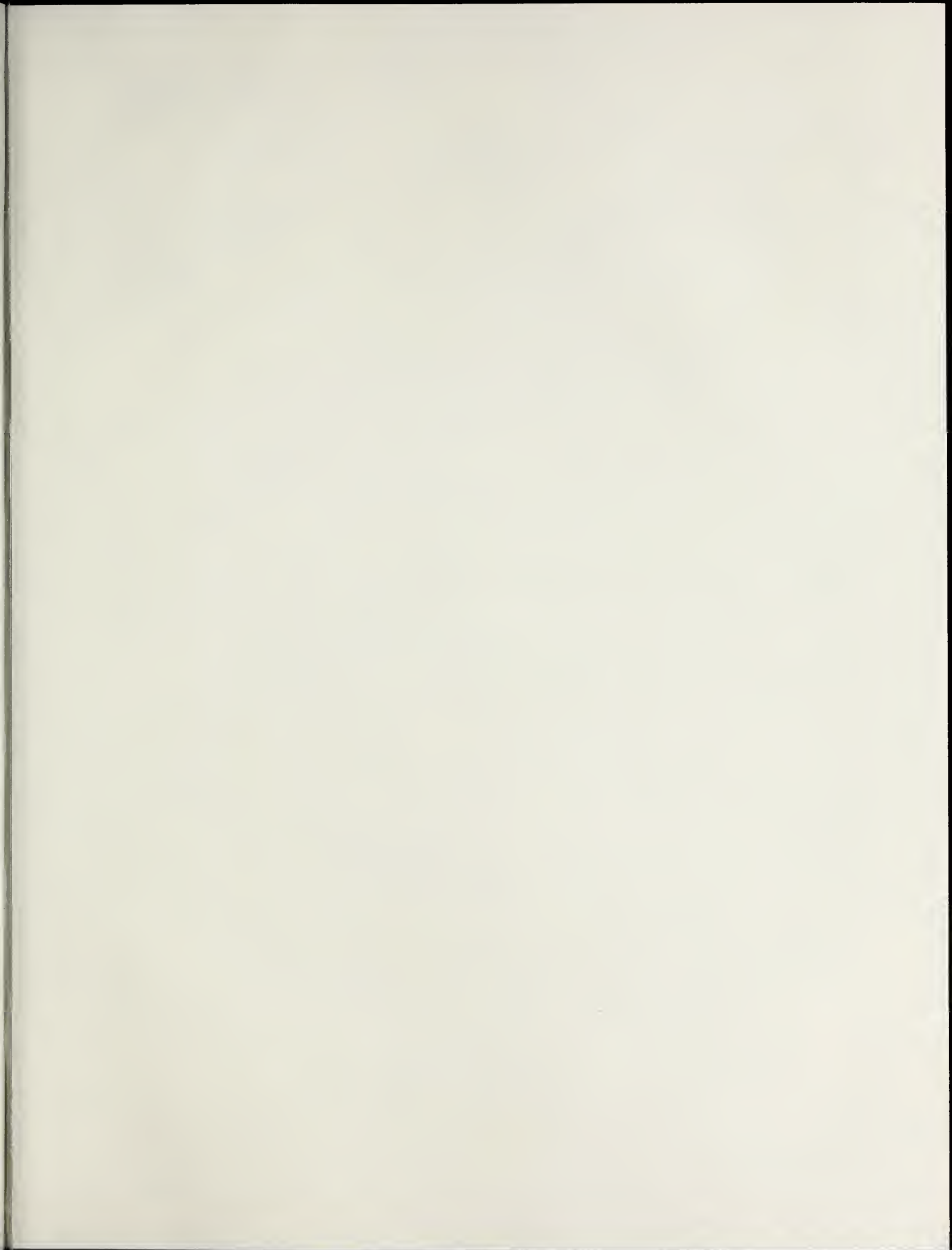
Calendar of Events



January 4th-9th
January 18th
February 12th
February 15th
February 19th
March 14th
March 20th
April 3rd
April 11th
May 9th
May 13th
May 20th-22nd
May 20th
June 6th
June 17th-19th
June 26th
July 4th
July 23rd, 24th & 25th
August 1st
August 13th, 14th & 15th
August 19th
August 29th
September 16th-18th
September 26th
October 2nd
October 7th
October 8th & 9th
October 12th
October 24th
November 21st
November 21st
December 1st
December 8th

Mobility Class
Class No. 04-07
Finance Committee Meeting
Class No. 04-08
Executive Board Meeting
Class No. 04-09
Board of Trustees Meeting/Board Retreat
Indiana Lions for Leader Dog - Trustees Visit
Class No. 04-10
Class No. 04-11
Finance Committee Meeting
O & M Seminar
Executive Board Meeting
Class No. 04-12
O & M Seminar
Puppy Day
Class No. 05-01
Lions Summer Visit
Class No. 05-02
Lions Summer Visit
Finance & Executive Committee Meeting
Class No. 05-03
O & M Seminar
Class No. 05-04
15th Annual Leader Dog Gala
Annual Board Meeting
MI & PA Leader Dog Chairman Visit
District 11-D-1 & 11-D-2 Open House
Class No. 05-05
Class No. 05-06
12th Annual Lead in the Holidays Gala
55th Annual Leader Dog Kick-Off Luncheon
Volunteer Luncheon







1/18/2013

T 2820705 15

00



HF GROUP - IN

